

DAVID GRAY SOLICITORS GOES CARBON NEUTRAL

16th August 2007

David Gray Solicitors was the first legal practice in the North East to sign up, in 2006, to a green scheme to help the environment by reducing carbon emissions.

Climatologists reporting for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are becoming increasingly concerned that the climate is changing due to the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from human activities. To have half a chance of curbing global warming to within safe levels, the world's greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced dramatically by between 60% and 80% of 1990 levels by 2050.

The Solicitors has re-confirmed its commitment in 2007 and re-signed with CarbonNeutral Newcastle, by reducing and balancing out the carbon dioxide from its energy use, business travel and commuting. The process of going CarbonNeutral involves a carbon footprint, energy audit, staff awareness and green travel initiatives. Unavoidable emissions are then offset through investment in local insulation and renewable energy schemes.

David Gray's carbon footprint was 99 tonnes of CO₂ for the last 12 months. Gas consumption has fallen by 50% since the previous year's footprint, partly due to energy efficiency measures. However, commuting travel emissions have risen, due to an increase in staff.

Elspeth Thomson, a Partner at David Gray, said, "We take our corporate responsibilities very seriously and we are determined to keep doing our bit to put the brakes on global warming by joining forces with such a worthwhile charity. This initiative will encourage all employees to think about ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the part they can play. In particular, we will now be focusing on reducing the impact of our travel. We have also attracted attention for our green policies, which is good for ensuring we have a sustainable business".

Charles Henderson, Project Director for CarbonNeutral Newcastle, said: "We are thrilled to have David Gray Solicitors recommit to CarbonNeutral. It's important that carbon emissions are being reduced as much as possible as well as being offset. As public awareness and scrutiny of offset projects grow, it is vital that people see sustainable initiatives helping people in their own region and the correct accreditation being sought. As well as making progress on its CarbonNeutral journey, David Gray Solicitors has stimulated interest within other regional legal firms, who are now more likely to commit their businesses to follow"

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For further information please contact Charles Henderson, CarbonNeutral Newcastle, on 0191 277 7149 or Elspeth Thomson, David Gray Solicitors on 0191 232 95 47