



The UK's greenest  
network operator

## “Certified CarbonNeutral<sup>®</sup> company”

### FAQ's

#### Why is Gamma doing this?

A combination of factors. At the company we have a genuine desire to reduce our power consumption and carbon footprint for both commercial and ethical reasons. We are also keen to differentiate our service proposition from that of other network operators, and to provide our Channel Partners with another differentiator to their customers.

#### What exactly do you mean by “a certified CarbonNeutral company”?

Gamma is a certified CarbonNeutral company compliant with The CarbonNeutral Protocol. We have measured our carbon emissions which have been calculated by an independent assessor called Greenstone Carbon Management and the remainder of our emissions have been offset through investing the same sum of money in high quality renewable energy projects, which would not otherwise have happened and which have been validated to the Verified Carbon Standard.

#### How does “CarbonNeutral certification” actually work?

The process is relatively simple, and for credibility reasons we have used outside specialists to ensure integrity and validity. We follow these three steps to become CarbonNeutral:

- **Measure:** Gamma is independently assessed by Greenstone Carbon Management for its carbon footprint at the end of each financial year, taking into account all utility usage,

business travel and waste across each site, as well as the electricity consumed by the network.

- **Reduce:** To be CarbonNeutral, we need to demonstrate that we have worked to reduce our emissions. We take steps to improve energy efficiency and to reduce emissions through investment in our soft-switch network (which replaces a power-hungry hardware infrastructure) and we also promote recycling of waste, a ride to work scheme and car sharing as well as encourage our staff to make conference calls instead of travelling by car to business meetings.
- **Offset:** Each year, we offset our remaining net emissions by investing in voluntary emissions reduction projects. So, for every 1 tonne of net CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions that Gamma emits, we're reducing 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e somewhere else in the world. These projects include a geo-thermal project in Turkey and a biomass project and Sri Lanka.

### **Why did you choose The CarbonNeutral Company?**

We chose The CarbonNeutral Company because it was well established (in 1997) and an innovator. It was the first company to package carbon offsets for business and consumer audiences, the first to create on-line carbon calculators, the first to create a public standard and quality assurance programme, and the first to sell travel offset packages to international governments and NGOs at the 2002 World Summit in Johannesburg.

### **How do you know your investment in carbon offsetting is credible?**

We ensure our partners are independent and credible.

For example, The CarbonNeutral Company is a founding member of the International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance (ICROA). The organisation has been created to build support for voluntary market standards and promote credible carbon management strategies which use a 'reduce-and-offset' approach.

### **So what exactly is Gamma investing in?**

The latest renewable energy projects that Gamma's carbon credits are being used on include the Aydin Geothermal Energy Project which uses geothermal energy to generate electricity at a renewable power plant in Turkey and a Sri Lankan Biomass Renewable Energy Project which uses renewable biomass to generate heat for processing tea at nine factories in Sri Lanka.

### **Aydin Geothermal Energy Project**

This project uses geothermal energy to generate electricity at a 7.95 MW grid-connected, renewable power plant in the province of Aydin, Turkey. It is expensive to develop and operate renewable technologies and that is where carbon finance can play an important role.

Alongside the environmental benefits, the project has created 100 temporary, construction jobs and 25 permanent roles. Additionally, the project owner has supported the local communities by providing a number of facilities from running water to computer equipment in local primary schools and villages.

### **Sri Lankan Biomass Renewable Energy Project**

Biomass is all living matter including plants, crops, trees and waste products from agricultural processes which have sequestered carbon during their lifetime. Using biomass as a renewable resource for fuel replaces the use of fossil fuel and therefore prevents the release of CO<sub>2</sub> and other harmful pollutants from those fuels. In addition, the use of biomass improves energy sustainability, provides additional income to farmers and overcomes disposal issues.

This project uses renewable biomass to generate heat for processing tea at nine factories in Sri Lanka. It replaces the use of diesel fuel and provides an essential renewable energy resource to a country that will be severely impacted by continuing climate change.