



Barrachd: a Natural Business Intelligence Solution

Sustainability is a buzzword at the moment. In simple terms, demand on the world's resources is growing and the resources available are shrinking. How can our way of life and our businesses continue and thrive in the challenging conditions of tomorrow?

Governments around the world are taking action. In the UK there are new taxes (Climate Change Levy) and in April 2010, The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme was introduced to incentivise larger organisations to reduce carbon emissions.

Coupled with this, organisations are independently looking to reduce their cost base and increase efficiency. Many are finding that managing their energy use is a great place to start. Finally, customers and service users are increasingly demanding environmentally products and services. Carbon management is one way for organisations to raise their profile and present a positive image to the market.

IBM Cognos Planning was originally developed for financial budgeting and forecasting. It is a leader in this field due to several key features:

- Setting top down targets.
- Tracking performance month by month in relation to long term targets.
- Efficiently collecting data from hundreds of collaborators with automatic consolidation.
- Clear workflow management, enabling administrators in the centre to understand submissions that are complete, work in progress or not started.

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence includes functionality to automate returns for statutory reporting and automatically generate scorecards for tracking key performance indicators.

Barrachd are redeploying that technology for Carbon Management.

IBM Cognos Planning is being used to distribute carbon emissions targets across the organisation and then allow department heads to budget carbon emissions. Actual carbon emissions data is then centrally loaded into the system. Finally, emissions targets are automatically recalculated, showing departments new targets that what needs to be achieved, given emissions to date. All of the above functionality is just as relevant for carbon budgeting as for financial budgeting.

Statutory returns can be generated and sent out automatically with IBM Cognos BI. Performance can be monitored and underlying factors can be understood using IBM Cognos BI score carding functionality.

Carbon budgeting is here for some and coming for most of us. As legislation raises the risk of fines and opportunities of carbon trading, carbon savings will come to mean money savings above and beyond the savings to be made on energy bills and taxes. Barrachd expect the demand for distributed Carbon Budgeting to increase as sustainability becomes an organisation wide issue.



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