

How to achieve Silver level



The Carbon Charter Silver Level requires that you have in place all of the requirements of the Bronze Level (see 'How to achieve Bronze level' factsheet), and in addition, that you can show measurable progress in implementing the action plan.

Measurable progress

The Carbon Charter looks for evidence that progress has been made against specific actions in the action plan. The evidence will vary depending upon the size and nature of the organisation, its activities and the specific action plan developed.

The following examples provide an indication of the sort of things that auditors will be looking for:

1. A record of actions completed with dates and individuals responsible (this may be an annotated copy of your action plan).
2. Documents identifying the progress made i.e. copies of bills showing power consumption dropping in line with targets. 10% emissions reductions over two years are considered desirable for Silver level award.
3. Evidence of the installation of new, carbon saving equipment (e.g. receipts for the purchase and installation of low energy lighting; photos).
4. Minutes of meetings where progress against actions was discussed.
5. Documents and procedures to ensure that staff undertake activities in an energy efficient manner, (e.g. procedures for staff informing them that equipment must be switched off when not in use).
6. Budgets (both in terms of time and money) allocated towards ensuring that the action plan is achieved.
7. Feedback from staff identifying that they understand their responsibilities in ensuring that the organisation meets their actions. e.g. "I understand that I need to switch off lights when not in use as it helps us achieve our target of 10% reduction in electricity use."

The Panel judges what's sufficient for the organisation's specific circumstances (recognising that achieving reductions can become progressively more difficult); 10% over two years is used as a guide for Silver.

What do we mean by a 10% reduction?

10% of the footprint directly in a business' control is used by the Panel as a guide for what counts as significant reductions. This does not mean that a business must always be able to show a 10% reduction to gain the Silver award - nor that having a 10% reduction automatically earns Silver.

The Panel will also be looking for the significant measures introduced that have led to the reductions. Sometimes circumstances will mean a business can implement significant measures but achieve a smaller reduction (for example where a large part of the footprint is hard to reduce). The panel will use their expertise to judge whether the evidence provided meets the requirements for significant reductions.

