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Case Study

Using BioCarbon Tracker to inform our purchasing & sustainability decisions

To understand the full sustainability of our supply chain, we work with our suppliers to gather information about the origin, land use and carbon savings of the biofuels we use.

Supplementing our programme of sustainability field audits, we have used BioCarbon Tracker to obtain and disclose detailed information about the preservation of high carbon and biodiverse land in our supply chain.

BioCarbon Tracker is an interactive website that uses satellite data to map global carbon reserves and land use change risk factors.

Understanding Carbon Risk

We prioritise our sustainability efforts according to where environment and social risks are greatest, so that our actions can lead to real change and benefit.

When making decisions about the likelihood of land use change and carbon loss, we refer to the carbon risk map on BioCarbon Tracker.

If the biofuel from crops have been grown in an area identified on BioCarbon Tracker as being of high risk of carbon loss, we work to understand the risk factors particular to that area, looking at how they relate to biofuel production. This allows us to ask more meaningful questions of our suppliers.

In areas where carbon loss is likely to be low and environmental protection is strong, we may not require additional compliance with biofuels sustainability standards.

Meeting regulatory requirements

BioCarbon Tracker maps carbon reserves lost and gained between 2005 and 2009. By referring to these maps, and maps of vegetation cover, we can establish whether biofuel crops have been grown on long-term agricultural land, and whether there has been any change in land use since 1st January 2008. This allows us to demonstrate compliance with the land use requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

We have also mapped the protected land use categories, conservation and protected areas defined RED, to create in BioCarbon Tracker a complete RED compliance tool.

Supply chain disclosure

We map the areas where our biofuel crops are grown on the BioCarbon Tracker interactive map, allowing full public disclosure of our international biofuel supply chain.

Our aim is to encourage customers and other stakeholders to understand more about the origin and sustainability of our supply chain.

We encourage other businesses to follow our lead.

