

Expeditors Discovers a Simple, Powerful Way to Manage Complex Sustainability Data

Executive Summary

Global logistics firm Expeditors is a Fortune 500 corporation with annual revenues exceeding \$6 billion. The Seattle-based shipping company employs more than 13,000 professionals in a worldwide network of over 250 locations across six continents. Its full suite of services includes air and ocean freight consolidation, customs clearance, and cargo insurance.

The company launched a sustainability-tracking strategy to help cut energy use, produce less waste, and save money. Using cloud-based software tool Scope 5, Expeditors measures environmental impacts like electricity, lighting, fuel, and waste.

Problem Description

Prompted partly by one of its biggest customers, Expeditors set out to track and measure its carbon footprint, energy efficiency and environmental performance.

The initiative started with a homegrown system of spreadsheets. "Green teams" in the company's 227 facilities around the globe were formed. Data was shared with the Carbon Disclosure Project, targeting a 5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per square meter over its 2011 levels by 2014.

Spreadsheets proved laborious and error-prone. But solutions from "big software" firms like SAP or Enviance were too large, were compliance law-centric, and costly to maintain.

Solution

Scope 5 met Expeditors' needs because the solution was easy to master, met core business requirements, and was far less expensive. Scope 5 rescued Expeditors from handcrafted charts and spreadsheets, and a process that had become cumbersome and time-consuming.

Besides more easily capturing data, teams are able to quickly create compelling visual pie and bar charts, graphs, and pictorials for snapshots of the company's sustainability profile in key areas to spur action.

Scope 5 "migrated" older, archived data from spreadsheets into current workflow data so accurate snapshots of measures like kilowatts of electricity, gallons of fuel, pounds of garbage, reams of paper, gallons of water used over time. Because the software is cloud-based, training was fast and easy.

Results

Now Expeditors gives facility managers an instant, real-time picture of their use and consumption patterns, along with at-a-glance insights into opportunities to reduce waste and potential savings. In the first year, using Scope 5 saved 400 employee hours - more than paying for itself.

Impact was immediate. For example, turning off overnight lights in several warehouses yielded savings of \$53,039, as facilities managers found switches to turn off without affecting safety. In three El Paso, Texas warehouses, electricity was cut by 23%, 14% and 9%.

Innovative "trash-to-cash" opportunities were revealed. In Los Angeles, a big warehouse housing plastic and cardboard pallets once hauled the materials off at a cost. Now they're reclaimed and resold to third party businesses, saving \$26,000.

The impact on culture has been powerful. With transparent sustainability data tracking in place, employees are more engaged in the company, spurring a passion for further changes and improvements. With 230 facilities, the company now has 300 green team members around the world collaborating.

All this projects have made a difference: Expeditors has improved its CDP score 20%.

Conclusion

Results speak for themselves: Scope 5 makes sustainability data management easier so Expeditors can track progress against targets for reducing resource use including carbon emissions. Not only does this save money, but valuable staff time gets spent driving outcomes rather than "wrestling" data.

Contact

Scope 5 helps organizations improve environmental and economic impacts by tracking progress, revealing waste, and driving action. Using Scope 5 Tracker™ technology, Scope 5 software can track any type of sustainability data at any scope by facility or product-line, and much more. Want to learn more? Visit Scope 5. Or contact us at info@scope5.com.