

Southern Region Project Carbon Reporting

Introduction

This high-level briefing document outlines the requirements set out by Network Rail and the Department for Transport (DfT) for Southern Region projects to complete carbon assessments.

Requirement

- Since September 2021 standard NR/L2/ENV/015 has required all PACE (formerly GRIP) projects which have a **TOTAL AFC >£1m to complete a Whole Life Carbon Assessment.**
- Additionally, since January 2023, the DfT have stipulated for all DfT projects which have a **TOTAL AFC >£50m to complete a Whole Life Carbon Assessment for submission to the DfT.**

Completing Carbon Assessments

The project shall complete the whole life carbon assessment using the RSSB Rail Carbon Tool (RCT) which can be accessed using the following [link](#), in accordance with NR/L2/ENV/015. Specific guidance on the use of the RCT can be found in NR/GN/ESD07 - *Managing whole life carbon in Infrastructure* on Safety Central ([here](#)). If projects wish to pilot the use of alternative carbon assessment platforms approval should be sought from the Regional Head of Environment & Sustainability.

The RCT shall be used from Project Development and Option Selection through to Design and Delivery, considering design options, material use, construction methods and transport/logistics. Its purpose is to understand the carbon impact of the project, then use the outputs to make design and construction decisions that will result in measurable carbon savings.

The Sponsor is accountable and the Project Manager responsible for ensuring that required carbon assessments are undertaken for all projects over £1m that are governed by PACE. An **RCT assessment should be repeated at each applicable PACE milestone.**

The Sponsor is accountable and responsible for ensuring that required carbon assessments are undertaken for all DfT funded projects over £50m. An **RCT assessment should be completed at each strategic outline, outline and full business case stage.**

If your project is financially constrained, please do not descope the carbon assessment from the authority request on the basis it saves money. Designing out carbon can often create efficiencies. Please discuss these challenges with your Environment Manager or contact the Southern region sustainability team (southernsustainability@networkrail.co.uk) to agree the best approach forward.

If you have a portfolio of work which includes multiple projects with the same design or material use, you can complete one carbon assessment and apply it to the whole portfolio. Templates are available in the RCT and should be reviewed prior to starting a new carbon assessment. The project must be able to evidence a relevant carbon assessment has been applied, but this does not necessarily mean creating a new carbon assessment each time.

The Project Manager should ensure their current and future projects in the RCT utilise the correct naming convention (“NR Southern - project name”) and that the **NR Corp1** and **NR Southern01** user groups are added to the project security settings.

Assurance

Capital Delivery teams should carry out Level 1 assurance activity to confirm that whole life carbon assessments are being undertaken. In addition to this, the Southern region sustainability team will undertake whole life carbon assessment checks on a periodic basis as part of the existing environmental Level 2 assurance. Further Level 3 assurance activity may be instigated by the Technical Authority.

RCT Challenges

There are known issues with the RCT and the reporting processes surrounding it, resulting in challenges for users. A work plan is in development to address these challenges and will be linked within this document when released.

Reporting to Southern Region Environment Team

Project Managers should submit their RCT assessments to their Capital Delivery Environment Manager (who are also responsible for Works Delivery). The Environment Manager has responsibility for uploading the outputs into the regional carbon reporting system. This information will then be used to provide carbon reports to Southern Regional Executive Team, Technical Authority and the Rail Centre for Excellence as part of Periodic Business Reports (PBR) and Quarterly Business Reports (QBR). Projects should continue to report new carbon reduction initiative that are deployed within the HSE KPI tool for PBR reporting.

RACI

	Sponsor	Project Manager	Designer	Environment Manager
Complete whole life carbon assessment using the RCT	A/R ¹	A/R ²	R ³	C
Submit whole life carbon assessments to Capital Delivery Environment Manager	A	R	-	I
Upload RCT outputs into the regional carbon reporting system	I	I	-	A/R
Note 1: Sponsor responsible for initial assessment if Project Manager is not yet appointed Note 2: Project Manager accountable if a Sponsor is not in place for project Note 3: Designer responsible if responsibility discharged from the Project Manager				

Version	Date	Change
V1	March 2023	-
V1.1	March 2023	Updated requirements wording & RACI