Carbon Footprint Management certification
Service information

NEPCon CFM certification is a complete solution for organizations seeking an ambitious approach to carbon footprinting and who want to be in front of public demand. The CFM certification provides a credible third party assurance that your efforts in reducing carbon emissions are effective and technically sound.
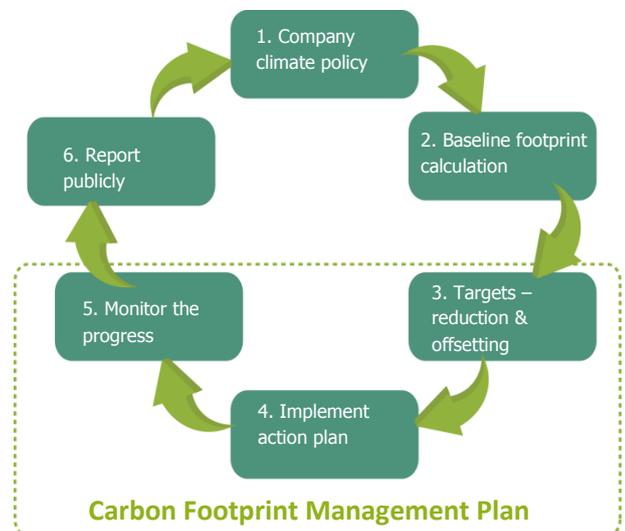
This is how CFM certification works

With NEPCon's CFM certification we not only check your footprint calculations, but also review your commitment and progress towards reduction and when applicable offsetting of their carbon emissions. Furthermore, NEPCon verifies any carbon claims, insuring a transparent public communication on your targets and achievements.

This figure indicates the main elements required in NEPCon's CFM service. Once the initial footprint is calculated, you should work towards continuously reducing your footprint.

Direct reduction of emissions should be the first priority. Non-reducible emissions can be offset by purchasing credible carbon credits, by which you help to reduce carbon emissions in other parts of the world. Your CFM auditor will focus on the way you have defined the boundaries of your carbon calculations, which emission sources you have accounted for and which methodologies and conversion factors have been used to establish the final carbon footprint.

The auditor will also verify the implementation of your *Carbon footprint Management Plan* - a list of actions set up to reach reductions and offsetting targets - as well as your efforts to make related data and progress information publicly available. Organizations can choose to focus on emissions from the daily company operations (corporate carbon footprint) or on carbon emissions related to a specific product or service (product carbon footprint). In the latter case a product life-cycle analyses is required to identify the relevant emission sources.

Certification requirements

Our standard ensures that all components required for a credible carbon footprint management system are considered. Although it is a unique standard in the way it combines all the critical elements, in one short and auditable standard, NEPCon's work also relies heavily on other existing carbon standards, such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP), the EU Environmental Footprint guides and the British PAS2050. Latest version of the CFM Standard is available on NEPCon homepage.

Labels and climate communication

There are three types of claims available under NEPCon's CFM service. Once you have performed initial calculations and prepared a CFM plan with reduction targets you may claim that your company has a *"Measuring CO_2"*. Once you have demonstrated the ability to reduce your carbon emissions you may claim to be *"Reducing CO_2"*. Finally, if the company has reached significant emission reductions and offset any additional emission, so that the reductions and offsets equal the total carbon emissions, you may claim to be *"CO_2 neutral"*.

Claims shall always be used in correct context and NEPCon provides pre-approved statements as well as guidelines for the use of labels and claims to ensure a high credibility of communication and limit the risk of being accused for green-washing. Any public usage of CFM claims under NEPCon's CFM certification system shall be submitted to us for approval prior to publication.

What is the cost structure?

The certification costs are determined based on the estimated auditor Level Of Effort. The total audit time depends on the complexity and scope of your carbon footprint calculations. An exact cost proposal can be provided based on a filled *Service request form*, which can be found on NEPCon´s homepage. There are no additional fees.

What about confidentiality?

To check correct calculations, the auditors will need access to data which may be confidential such as regions and transportation routes of your raw material or specific information about production processes. The confidentiality of such data is secured and our staff is bound by strict confidentiality requirements. However, respecting any commercially sensitive information, the NEPCon CFM standard requires the certified organization to make key information related to their carbon footprint publicly available. Information about issued CFM certificates, including the scope of the CFM system, is also made publicly available on NEPCon´s homepage.

What does the certification process entail?

CFM certificates are issued for a five year period. An initial assessment is conducted as a basis for certification, and subsequent annual audits are required to maintain the certificate. You may also choose to have a pre-assessment to have a preliminary verification of the main aspects.

1	**Your preparation**	First of all, you need to prepare for certification by ensuring compliance with all the CFM standard requirements. This includes; 1) calculation of your corporate or product carbon footprint; 2) developing a CFM plan with reduction and (if applicable) offsetting targets; 3) Plan of action. NEPCon assigns a person who will be available to respond to questions during the entire audit process. We also provide guidance and training.
2	**Review of calculation**	Before onsite evaluation, we will conduct a desk review of your initial footprint calculations and related data. We will inform you about any major deviations from the CFM standard, and recommend that these are addressed before main evaluation.
3	**Main evaluation**	The initial CFM assessments are normally conducted onsite. It lasts up to one work day per site and includes typically interviews and document review. Depending on the scope and complexity of your CFM system, annual audits may be conducted remotely through a review of documentation and records.
4	**Reporting and certificate issuance**	After the audit, we prepare a written report describing the results of the audit. Any major issues need to be corrected before the certificate can be issued. The report is quality reviewed and submitted to you for any comments before closure. Upon positive certification decision, the certificate is issued and sent to your company. Info about issued certificate is also posted on NEPCon´s homepage.

How do I maintain my certificate?

You need to comply with the NEPCon CFM Standard requirements to remain certified, which is verified through annual audits. If non-conformities are identified in your system, you must take appropriate and effective action to address these. To secure the integrity of the carbon claims, rigorous requirements apply to the follow-up on non-conformities, which are graded as major or minor. Minor issues are commonly verified during the next annual audit; if they have been insufficiently addressed, they are upgraded to major. Major non-conformities must be addressed within maximum three months, thus requiring an additional audit to verify your timely compliance. Failure to address major non-conformities will lead to suspension of your certificate and the need to stop making any public claims. A suspended certificate can be re-instated after the issues are addressed and this is verified through an audit.