



Real action on climate change

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emissions trading map launched for UK

Each year, approximately 1000 sites across the UK emit over 250 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. They account for around half of the UK's contribution to global warming.

Sandbag, the campaign to highlight the issues around carbon emissions trading, today launches a new map detailing the location of these sites, how much they emitted in 2008 and also how many permits they have been allocated for free by Government to allow them to carry on emitting.

Sandbag's analysis shows that overall emissions in the UK in 2008 were 50 million tonnes higher than the number of permits handed out. Interestingly, again the only sector with fewer permits than it needs is the electricity sector. All other sectors have received more allowances than they need – totalling some 15 million tonnes, a subsidy worth about £180 million when sold to other would-be polluters.

Sandbag's unique proposal is to utilise the power of the internet to open the issue of emissions trading up to public scrutiny, to enable campaigning around the subject and to facilitate the cancellation of permits on behalf of its members.

Sandbag has taken publicly available information about who is allowed to emit what, and made it easy to understand and investigate. Today, we have launched a Google map of UK installations currently in the trading scheme. It illustrates emissions from last year and compares them to how many permits they have received from Government.

Bryony Worthington, Founder of the **Sandbag** campaign, says: "Our work scrutinising how emissions trading is working on the ground is essential to improving it for the future. Mistakes have been made and we must prevent them from being made again, either here in Europe or in other parts of the world. Clearly we have handed out too many permits. Future caps on emissions need to be much tighter if we are to stand a chance of averting catastrophic climate change."

1. Why 'Sandbag'?

Increasing global temperatures will lead to higher sea levels and more severe weather. Sandbags are a traditional form of self defence against threats – our campaign is a way of defending ourselves against the threat of climate change so that we will need fewer real sandbags in the future.

2. About the organisation

Sandbag is registered as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company in the UK. The founder Bryony Worthington is an experienced campaigner in the field of climate change and an expert in emissions trading policy. She previously set up the Friends of the Earth 'Big Ask' campaign, worked inside Government on the drafting of the Climate Change Bill and acted as a climate change adviser to a leading UK energy company.

Sandbag's campaigning work is supported by grants from leading environmental foundations and Sandbag is a member of The Guardian Environment Network.

3. Facts and figures relating to emissions trading in the UK:

Total number of installations included in the scheme: **1110**

Number of installations with sufficient data to enable us to include them in our map: **930**

Overall level of allocation of permits in the scheme: **265 million tonnes per year**

Difference between 2008 emissions and 2008 permit allocations: **51 million tonnes**

Difference between power sector emissions in 2008 and allocations for the same year: **66 million tonnes**

Emissions in the non-power sector in 2008 compared to 2008 allocation: **+15 million tonnes**

Value of this surplus**: **£180 million**

**Assuming they are sold at today's prices of €12 per permit/tonne with an exchange rate of €1 to the pound.

To view the map, visit <http://sandbag.org.uk/see>

Blog reference: www.sandbag.org.uk

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Notes for the editor:

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