

PwC Australia: Leading professional services firm goes 100% renewable with GoldPower

GoldPower wind energy project in New Caledonia



Day-to-day business operations are considered the most significant impact at PwC, and even though their footprint is low compared to other industries they have been committed to actively reducing and offsetting their carbon emissions.

In 2008 PwC developed an environmental strategy that outlined a goal to offset the firm's GHG emissions. Since July 2008, PwC has been carbon neutral, one of the first Australian financial services firms to achieve this.

PwC is also a strong supporter of renewable energy and with many clients in this industry they were keen to incorporate renewable energy into their offset procurement strategy where possible.

The context

PwC has been purchasing Australian GreenPower Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) since July 2008. This enabled the firm to claim a percentage of its electricity usage as being from GreenPower accredited renewable energy sources. Moving forward, PwC sought to procure high quality domestic or international RECs, that would allow them to continue to use 100% renewable energy offsets for their electricity emissions.

The challenge

To achieve carbon neutral certification by finding a carbon offset or renewable energy certificate (REC) solution that was not only good value for money, but also reputable, transparent, high quality and low risk.

How did PwC proceed?

PwC went to market with very specific evaluation criteria for not only the carbon offsets and REC's but also to ensure they were dealing with companies with strong quality assurance principles.

Working with South Pole Group

PwC chose to work with the South Pole Group's Australian subsidiary, Climate Friendly because the company was able to demonstrate strong technical capabilities, a track record of providing high quality carbon offsets and RECs, and most importantly a robust approach to risk management, quality assurance and reporting systems.

It was also critical that any solutions be accredited under the Australian Federal Government's National Carbon Offset Scheme (NCOS) that PwC is a participant in.

About the client

PwC Australia is one of Australia's leading professional services firms, part of PwC's global network of member firms who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services.

Having grown from a one-man Melbourne accountancy practice in 1874 to the worldwide merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand in 1998, PwC Australia now employs more than 6,000 people.

GoldPower small hydropower project in Brazil



GoldPower solar project in China





GoldPower wind energy project in Taichung County, Taiwan



The solution

PwC chose GoldPower Renewable Energy because it is the world's first global renewable energy label.

It was developed by Climate Friendly, part of the South Pole Group, with the support of WWF, the world's leading conservation organisation in response to demand for a truly global and truly effective renewable energy label. GoldPower is recognised under the WWF Climate Savers program.

"PwC have been clients of Climate Friendly, part of the South Pole Group for the last three years. The company trusts GoldPower premium renewable energy developed because they represent additional support to renewable energy in developing countries and meet our strict evaluation criteria that ensures there is no reputational risk to our company"

Eve Buckley

Senior Consultant – Corporate Responsibility

GoldPower is a product that guarantees PwC safe access to renewable energy for its operations while also promoting the share of renewables in the global energy mix. GoldPower also has positive economic, social and environmental impacts on the affected communities where the projects are located.

GoldPower wind energy project in Taiwan



What is GoldPower?

GoldPower is the world's first global renewable energy label. It is geared towards leading businesses who want to demonstrate their commitment to a sustainable energy future.

GoldPower comes from grid-connected renewable electricity projects in a large number of countries. It guarantees that each renewable energy purchase provides truly additional reductions in carbon emissions as well as delivering significant, verified environmental, social and economic benefits to the local community. These benefits can include health clinics, employment and education for local people, as well as new infrastructure such as power supply and roads.

Why work with us

Global team

We are a truly global provider of sustainability solutions and services. Our team is made up of over 130 skilled and enthusiastic professionals from over 25 different countries, based in offices spanning 6 continents.

Proven impact

Since 2006, we have measured the climate impact of countless companies and products worldwide. We have screened USD 200 bn+ of investments for their climate impact and we have developed 400 projects in renewables, forestry, agriculture, industry and households. Through our efforts, 50 million tonnes of CO₂ have been saved, almost as much as the annual CO₂ emissions of the country of Portugal. We have enabled the production of 35,000 GWh of renewable energy (more than the annual electricity consumption of the country of Denmark), and mobilised over USD 6 bn for clean energy investments in emerging markets. In total, our projects have helped create almost 20,000 jobs in developing countries; this roughly corresponds to the number of employees of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). We have also saved 55,000 hectares of forest from deforestation, about the size of 77,000 soccer pitches.

Added value

We help you grow with groundbreaking solutions that benefit your business, the environment and society.

GoldPower micro run-of-river hydro project in China

