



Software Solution Supports Sustainability Strategy of Top Tier Contractor

Abigroup implements the Ndevr Greenhouse Emissions Reporting solution to accurately capture and report its emissions data.

The Customer

Abigroup Limited is a leading national Australian contractor with specialised capabilities across diverse areas including engineering, building, rail, water, mining services and telecommunications. In its 50 year history Abigroup has earned its prominent position in the construction industry through its commitment to delivering quality products, its dedication to innovation and excellence and its committed team members who are industry leaders.

Sustainability is important to Abigroup where they firmly believe it is about balancing growth and long-term business success with social and environmental responsibilities. Abigroup strives to maintain a healthy carbon footprint and improve its sustainability efforts through considering all potential impacts on the environment – noise, dust, pollution etc – which they actively identify and put measures in place to manage with the goal of minimising environmental impact.

The Challenge

In 2007 the Australian federal Government introduced the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act, which makes it mandatory for companies that consume over 500 terajoules of energy per year (or produce over 125Kt of CO₂e) to collect emissions data and provide detailed information about their emissions. This new legislation and a genuine desire to improve environmental outcomes in the company, led Abigroup to seek a solution to help accurately measure its carbon emissions across a very diverse range of businesses and projects.

Sarah Marshall, National Environment and Sustainability Manager, Abigroup Limited explained; “The concept of sustainability is a powerful driver influencing the direction of Australia’s infrastructure industry. With increasing concern for the environment and global warming, Abigroup wanted to respond by integrating the principles of sustainability into the planning and delivery of all our projects.”

An ongoing challenge Abigroup faces is to accurately measure our carbon footprint across our diverse range of businesses and projects. Abigroup previously captured and measured emissions using excel spreadsheets. The data was recorded by each individual project site and was often unreliable and inaccurate. The environment managers on the projects would then have to record the data separately for the reports, which was a complete duplication of their collective efforts. “Not only was this difficult and time consuming, but there were also no mechanisms in place to enable the project managers to monitor emissions regularly, or react quickly if consumption in a particular area surged.” She said.





Pacific Highway, Bonville Upgrade Project
Image Courtesy of Abigroup Limited

Abigroup identified the need for a solution that could accurately capture greenhouse gas related emissions from their many, geographically dispersed projects. Of particular concern was how they were going to capture emissions data from their plant fleet, which uses tens of millions of litres of fuel per year and is very complex to capture. Due to the reporting requirements of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act, and the GHG Protocol, the solution also needed to easily transform the data from the energy consumed into carbon emissions.

The Solution

In order to meet all of their requirements Abigroup at first considered developing a solution in-house, however due to the complexity and ongoing alignment to Government regulation, the Information Systems group decided to consider an external solution. The Information Systems group had previously worked closely with Oracle Certified Partner, Ndevr, a company which had recently completed development of a fully integrated solution for Oracle Applications based on the new environmental reporting laws. After only a brief consultation with Ndevr, Abigroup decided to implement Ndevr's GHG Accounting Software.

"The GHG Accounting Software works as a fully integrated module within Abigroup's existing JD Edwards EnterpriseOne software, enabling us to track our greenhouse gas emissions through our financial/ERP systems," explained Alison Woodward, Group Manager, Information Systems, Abigroup Limited. "The solution breaks up data by type, for example, gas usage, or electricity, and applies it to a monitoring and internal reporting capability with Business Intelligence tools. Finally, a standard financial reporting framework is applied to ensure the data is auditable, and able to be signed off. As it is part of the financial system, it is totally secure – with rights and access management and backed up nightly," she continued.

Now, when an invoice comes in, the data entry and administration staff simply adds one extra value per column when they enter the financial data into the system. The data is presented in tables and forms that are designed to capture the basic information as it is presented by a standard accounts payable invoice (e.g. gas, electricity, or fuel). This data is then transformed by backend calculations into a volume of CO₂ emissions, which can be broken into business units, or by item.





The Benefits

“The most positive part of the project and the biggest unforeseen benefit is the reaction we have received from the staff. Initially, the administrators and data entry staff were concerned that this solution would mean extra work. So rather than doing only technical training, we explained the environmental reasons for capturing the data in the first place. After only one training session, the staff were more relaxed when they understood the amount of extra work required from them and the staff really got on board. Some staff members have even begun incorporating other green initiatives within their own work groups,” said Marshall.

“Because our GHG emission reporting is now incorporated into our financial reporting systems, and based around accounts payable data entry, we now have complete confidence that the data is an accurate measurement of energy consumption”, commented Marshall. “Ndevr’s Greenhouse Emissions Reporting Solution provides a solid foundation for not only meeting Abigroup’s internal and external reporting requirements but also has the ability to feed into our clients’ own energy and emissions reporting obligations.”

“For Abigroup, measuring greenhouse gas emissions is about more than making the company aware of its energy consumption; it is about knowing how to respond to the results. It allows us to generate long term records enabling forecasting and reduction targets to be put in place and managed intelligently so that emissions reduction can be achieved,” she concluded.

The Future

At the moment, Abigroup is using Ndevr’s Greenhouse Emissions Reporting Solution to capture fuel, gas and energy emissions, but has plans to expand the solutions use to capture other elements such as waste generated and water consumption.



For more information or to arrange a demonstration of the software please visit www.nger.com.au or email nger@ndevr.com.au

Strengthening the West Gate Bridge
Image Courtesy of Abigroup Limited

