Energy Conservation & Combined Heat and Power

INTEGRATED ENERGY CONCEPTS ENGINEERING P.C.

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The leader in energy efficiency and energy conservation

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What's a Carbon Footprint

With energy conservation and "Going Green " becoming more popular for many reasons, be it cost savings, PR, or political, many different options and sub-sets have come into play. One of the newest environmental impact measuring sticks is the Carbon Dioxide or a carbon footprint.

Simply put, a carbon footprint is the effect an entity has on the world around us with regards to greenhouse gases expressed in Carbon Dioxide. That entity could be a business, industry, process, or a person. Everything has an impact on the environment, and when calculated based on carbon emissions, which are known to support major impacts to the environment, an effect, or "footprint" is calculated. For

example, if you take a trip across the country on an airplane, from New York City to Los Angeles, the aircraft would burn a quantity of fuel to get you there. The airline standard value is about 100 Gallons of fuel per passenger for a cross country trip. This 100 gallons would equate to 1,924 lbs of CO_2 which would go toward establishing your carbon foot print.

In much the same way, a business, facility, or even a process accrues carbon points during the life of that entity. When a facility uses electricity for example, the electricity generated uses fuel which adds to the lbs of CO_2 the facility releases. Uniquely enough, a well designed and maintained cogeneration plant can actually reduce the overall carbon footprint of a facility by

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What's going to happen? A question that surrounds both tomorrow and energy. While neither question can be answered with 100% certainty, we strive to anticipate the best we can.

With energy we can spend time looking at gas and oil futures, the weather, and various other indicators affecting the commodity. While we may never be able to be certain, we can do some thing now to plan for the future.

We talk a lot about energy conservation and its economic benefit now. But what about later, as energy prices keep rising, the energy savings paid for this year, will ultimately be worth more as the cost of energy rises. And the savings keeps coming, year after year, even when the utilities announce yet another rate increase. A dollar saved today, could be $1.50 saved in a couple of years, a 50% gain, now that's an investment!!

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decreasing the net fuel usage associated with that facilities electric and gas usage.

Carbon offset points can be purchased to offset these effects. Typically the proceeds of these offset credits go to programs designed to reduce CO_2 emissions through efficiency programs, wind farms, biomass energy etc, and each points purchase value is set to equal the dollar amount required to offset that amount of carbon through these various points. In fact, carbon credits can even be sold as a commodity from various energy conservation measures, combined heat and power plants etc.

For more information and to calculate your carbon footprint, follow the link on the first page.