

Verification Statement

Google – Global CY2014 GHG Inventory

Background

Cameron-Cole, LLC (“Cameron-Cole”) was retained by Google to perform an independent verification of its Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory for Calendar Year 2014 (CY2014), which was developed according to the World Resources Institute (WRI)/World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, 2004 revised edition (“The GHG Protocol”). Our opinion on the results of the Inventory, with respect to the verification objectives and criteria, is provided in this statement.

Responsibility of Google & Independence of Verification Provider

Google has sole responsibility for the content of its GHG Inventory. Cameron-Cole accepts no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the GHG emissions results since they were submitted to us for review. Based on internationally accepted norms for impartiality, we believe our review represents an independent assessment of Google’s Global CY2014 GHG Emissions Inventory. Finally, the opinion expressed in this verification statement should not be relied upon as the basis for any financial or investment decisions.

Level of Assurance

The level of assurance is used to determine the depth of detail that a Verification Body designs into the Verification Plan to determine if there are material errors, omissions or misstatements in a company's GHG assertions. Although Absolute Assurance may provide the highest level of confidence that an emissions assertion is materially correct, it is often not practical for complex verification assignments. The two remaining levels of assurance that are generally recognized – reasonable and limited – are routinely provided by Verification Bodies. Reasonable Assurance generates the highest level of confidence that an emissions report is materially correct, while Limited Assurance provides less confidence, and involves less detailed examination of GHG data and supporting documentation. Limited Assurance statements assert that there is no evidence that an emissions report is not materially correct. Cameron-Cole’s verification of Google’s Global GHG Emissions Inventory for CY2014 was constructed to provide a Limited Level of Assurance.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this verification assignment were as follows:

- Determine whether the GHG emissions assertions meet/exceed the 95% threshold for accuracy; and,
- Evaluate the conformance of Google’s accounting and calculation methodologies, processes and systems to The GHG Protocol.

Verification Criteria

Cameron-Cole conducted verification activities in alignment with the principles of ISO-14064-3:2006(E) Specifications with Guidance for the Validation and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions. The Google GHG Inventory was prepared using, and verified against, The GHG Protocol.

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Verification Scope & Assertions

The scope of this verification assignment covers Google's Global CY2014 GHG Emissions Inventory, which includes carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from Scope 1, Scope 2, Scope 3, and biogenic sources.

Google's CY2014 GHG assertions are as follows:

- Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions totaled 1,512,564 metric tons (MT) CO₂: 1,460,762 MT are Scope 2 (indirect) CO₂ emissions from electricity purchases (including benefits associated with Renewable Energy Credits [RECs]) and 51,802 MT are Scope 1 (direct) CO₂ emissions from combustion.
- Optional disclosure of Scope 2 emissions without inclusion of RECs as 2,198,821 MT CO₂, with total emissions of 2,250,623 MT CO₂ for both Scope 1 and Scope 2 sources.
- Scope 3 emissions are reported to be 97,985 MT CO₂.
- Declared biogenic emissions associated with the combustion of landfill gas and liquid biofuels are 6,727 MT CO₂.

It is therefore verified that Google's declared assertions above and the total GHG emissions for CY2014 of 1,610,549 MT CO₂ (includes all scopes and excludes biogenic emissions) are materially correct, limited to the boundaries listed in the Verification Scope & Assertions section.

Most emissions were calculated from activity data consisting of metered consumption, though less than 1% of Scope 2 emissions were estimated based on square feet of occupied space and an assumed electric consumption rate. No other data and information supporting the GHG assertion were hypothetical, projected or historical in nature, other than the inherent historical nature of grid-based electricity emissions factors.

Verification Opinion

Based on the method employed and the results of the verification activities undertaken, **Cameron-Cole has found no evidence of material errors, omissions or misstatements in Google's Global CY2014 GHG Inventory within the boundaries described above.** Cameron-Cole also found that Google's GHG accounting and calculation methodologies, processes and systems for this inventory conform to The GHG Protocol.



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