

THE OPEN GROUP OPEN FOOTPRINT™ FORUM

What is the Open Footprint™ Forum?

The Open Group Open Footprint Forum (OFF) exists to develop data management standards that will ease the capture and sharing of emissions data, including greenhouse gases (GHG).

Currently, there are no standards for the storing, definitions, and access of greenhouse gases scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions data, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The lack of standards in this area has major business implications. For example, in a supply chain with multiple companies taking part, when the recipient of the supply chain wants to calculate the total carbon footprint of their end product it is virtually impossible, since each participant of that supply chain has collected and stored the data using their own definitions and calculations. This is because the reference values, relationships between data types, and data definitions are not standardized. Therefore, it is difficult and unnecessarily laborious to arrive at meaningful numbers. Without standards in this area, the practical reality for most organizations is that they have to share data on spreadsheets and be subject to significant manual data conversion efforts.

The supply chain (scope 3 indirect emissions) is just one example. However, there are many areas of emissions data management where universally adopted standards are urgently needed.

The Open Footprint Forum provides an open, vendor-neutral environment where Members of the emissions ecosystem from across all industries collaborate to develop data management standards. The aim of the Forum is to develop a single set of data and metadata definitions - the Open Footprint Data Model.

When each company or organization has implemented the Open Footprint Data Model, they will use the same definitions allowing emissions data to be more easily shared, and the carbon values to be aggregated much more efficiently, reducing wasted time and money. In addition, this enables organizations to focus their time and effort on developing applications to make better use of this data. This creates real business value, where organizations can differentiate and innovate.



Become a Member

Get Involved and Gain Influence in Defining Open Standards and Certifications

Being a Member of The Open Group gives organizations early access to the latest information and developments regarding open standards and best practices, and enables them to participate in our highly influential Forums and Work Groups. We provide a collaborative, vendor-neutral environment where Member representatives can:

- Network with a world-class community of peers, experts, and industry leaders
- Have early access to information on industry developments
- Gain insight for future decisions from both major customers and technology suppliers
- Influence outcomes that benefit their organizations
- Grow professionally and enhance their credibility in the industry
- Receive education in best practices

The Open Footprint initiative is more than a set of standards. We are also working to provide:

- A Reference Architecture
- Open Source-based reference tools
- A single set of reference application programming interfaces (APIs) to access the data
- A Data Model supporting the World Economic Forum (WEF) GHG Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) PACT framework, GHG Protocol, and other audit and reporting standards (e.g., ISSB, GRI, PCAF, and others)
- Documentation for all of the above deliverables

An important characteristic of the open-source tools under development is that upon using them, the organization determines who gets access to their data, and what elements of the data they are permitted to see.

The Open Footprint Forum is presently working to deliver our third major release of the OFP data model in Q4 of 2023. This 2023 release will provide coverage for all GHG scopes 1, 2, and 3.

The Open Footprint Forum is working with various other standards and reporting bodies such as SASB, WEF, GRI, PCAF, and WBCSD to explore how we can better align our standards (as per above) and their reporting standards.

The Open Footprint Forum welcomes all organizations interested in joining the forum, including but not limited to Business, Sustainability, and IT Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) including end-user organizations in all industries, software solution providers, academia, consulting companies, audit firms, and government regulatory agencies.

Why Join?

By joining the Open Footprint Forum, your organization will:

- Be seen as a leader in the development of open, interoperable environmental footprint measurement standards and solutions benefitting all companies and society at large
- Help to drive down the cost of measuring and managing environmental footprint, for your organization and for your supply chain
- Ensure that the standards and data platform that will emerge from the Open Footprint initiative will meet your organization's needs
- Gain early access to the emerging standard and data platform
- Become a part of the environmental footprint data measurement ecosystem

Without the Open Footprint Forum, organizations either resort to sharing incompatible data via spreadsheets, with the accompanying cost and manual effort required to convert data, or they acquire or build incompatible and expensive custom solutions that don't interoperate throughout their supply chains.

More Information

Please contact Mike Hickey (m.hickey@opengroup.org), Membership Director of The Open Group, or in Europe, Chris Head (c.head@opengroup.org) for more information on how your company can join this exciting initiative.

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About The Open Group

Leading the development of open, vendor-neutral technology standards and certifications

The Open Group is a global consortium that enables the achievement of business objectives through technology standards. Our diverse membership of more than 900 organizations includes customers, systems and solutions suppliers, tool vendors, integrators, academics, and consultants across multiple industries.

Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.