

Green Book Alliance Launches New Carbon Calculator for the Book Publishing Industry

A practical tool to help publishers measure, understand, and reduce their environmental impact

The Green Book Alliance (GBA) is proud to announce the official launch of the **GBA Book Carbon Calculator**, a new free tool designed to help publishers and book industry organizations estimate and better understand the carbon emissions of their books.

Best for those beginning their journey into carbon calculation, the calculator offers a practical and accessible way for publishing professionals to begin tracking emissions data and identifying opportunities for more sustainable practices across their operations.

The calculator allows users to:

- Estimate the carbon footprint of an individual book
- Make more informed, lower-impact production decisions
- Estimate emissions across key operational areas
- Establish baselines
- Track sustainability progress over time
- Engage in internal sustainability planning and reporting

The launch marks a significant step forward in the publishing industry's growing commitment to environmental responsibility and climate action by making emissions tracking more approachable and industry-specific. Adapting the [Sustainable Publishing Tools](#), which emerged from collaboration between New Society Publishers and ECW Press, the calculator is intended as a starting point, an accessible tool to help organizations begin measuring and understanding their emissions, while also creating a shared foundation for industry-wide learning and collaboration.

For organizations just beginning their sustainability journey, the calculator offers an accessible entry point into understanding the carbon measurement. For those already engaged in emissions tracking, it provides an opportunity to contribute to a shared industry resource that can evolve to support a wide range of needs and workflows. The Green Book Alliance is already planning a working group to help guide the development of future versions and releases, and we encourage interested members of the community to stay tuned for opportunities to participate as this calculator continues to be developed and refined.

The Green Book Alliance is proud of what has been accomplished in bringing this resource to the industry and believes it offers a foundation for future growth and collaboration. Beyond measuring emissions, the calculator encourages conversations – between production staff and their peers in-house, between publishers, printers and suppliers, and between users and the GBA itself. Sustainability is an ongoing process of learning and adaptation, and this calculator is not an endpoint, but an important beginning.

Access the calculator here: <https://gbacarboncalculator.org/en>

Industry Collaboration & Support

The GBA Carbon Calculator was developed through collaboration from organizations across the publishing industry. The Green Book Alliance would like to recognize the contributions of the sponsors and supporting partners whose commitment to sustainability and a more resilient publishing industry helped make this project possible.

Brian O’Leary, Executive Director of BISG and GBA co-founder said: "Over the past several years, the book industry has made good progress reporting on its carbon impact. Those reports tend to look backward, after decisions have been made. The carbon calculator gives publishers and their trading partners an opportunity to look at carbon impact before a sourcing decision is made. It is built to foster conversations among publishers, printers, and paper suppliers to better understand how planning and production decisions affect carbon emissions. Because it is freely available, we hope it can make sustainability a regular part of a sourcing conversation."

Pamela Hiebert, Corporate Marketing Manager of Friesens said: "Friesens is proud to support the launch of the carbon calculator, providing publishers with tools to better understand the environmental impact of their books. We believe this effort will inspire positive change and help move the industry towards greater sustainability."

Sheila Pinder, CEO of Publishing Scotland said: ‘The GBA Carbon Calculator is a breakthrough for sustainability best practice in book publishing, as it is free-to-use and open to all. This reduces barriers to entry for carbon measurement and enables organisations of all sizes to reduce their environmental impacts. It is a decision-making tool, helping print buyers consider carbon impacts before purchase, instead of merely retrospectively recording them, giving publishers more agency in carbon-reduction measures. We're delighted to be part of this international effort to create clear sustainability pathways for publishers.’

Sponsors & Supporting Organizations

[Gibbs Smith](#)

[Publishing Scotland](#)

[Friesens](#)

[ECW Press](#)

[New Society Publishers](#)

Live Launch & Demo

To mark the launch, the Green Book Alliance will host a **live launch and demo webinar at 11 a.m. ET on June 30, 2026**, where attendees will receive a walkthrough of the calculator, learn how the tool works, and have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the project team.

Date: June 30, 2026

Time: 11 a.m. ET

Registration: <https://www.greenbookalliance.org/event-details-registration/the-gba-book-carbon-calculator-live-launch>

The webinar is open to all members of the publishing ecosystem interested in sustainability and emissions tracking.

About the Green Book Alliance

The Green Book Alliance (GBA) is a collaborative initiative of BookNet Canada, Book Industry Communication (BIC) and Book Industry Study Group (BISG) dedicated to advancing sustainability within the book publishing industry. Through education, resources, research, and industry partnerships, the GBA works to support environmentally responsible practices across the publishing supply chain.

Website: <https://www.greenbookalliance.org/>

Media Contact

Jarin Pintana

Green Book Alliance

jpintana@greenbookalliance.org

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