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Its CDP S&P 500 Climate Change Report 2014 states that industry leaders who report on their carbon management are generating superior profitability, have more stability, growing dividends, and are exhibiting value to investors and stakeholders.

On a local level, voluntary emissions measurement and reduction drives efficiency, and is a point of difference in a competitive marketplace.

**Environmental stewardship**

Supply chain environmental reporting is still in its early stages in New Zealand, but businesses of varying sizes are proving it can be done.

OfficeMax New Zealand is committed to responsible environmental stewardship in its own operations and has an Enviro-Mark diamond-certified environmental management system. It ensures the green benefits flow through to suppliers by conducting a biannual review of suppliers and, where needed, offering mentoring and OfficeMax team support.

Julie Roberts, health, safety and environment coach for OfficeMax, says this proactive environmental management ensures strong environmental credentials as well as cost benefits. "In our first two years our first site achieved a 26% year-on-year reduction in electricity usage. Nationwide, since 2009 we have been able to achieve a 5% year-on-year reduction."

Medium-sized enterprise Apex General has also developed a way to simply and effectively manage its supply chain to ensure its partners share its environmental values. The New Zealand-owned insurance broking firm recently carried out a supply chain review, assessing its suppliers in three categories.

These were:

- Are they an Apex customer?
- Are they a New Zealand company?
- Are they certified as sustainable – such as carboNZero, CEMARS, Enviro-Mark or SBN?

If a supplier didn't fit these criteria, Apex General either started working with them to make improvements or found another company that did. General manager James McGhie says the company is committed to having a positive environmental impact and is keen to support suppliers with shared values.

**International examples**

While supply chain environmental reporting is still in its infancy in New Zealand, there is a growing number of high-profile international examples. UK supermarket giants ASDA and Tesco are among massive global purchasers who have reduced their emissions and are now expecting – and supporting – their supply chains to do so too.

ASDA acknowledges 95% of

its fresh produce is currently at risk from climate change, and its buyers are now working with companies across its supply chain to develop a carbon reduction strategy that works for all.

Tesco has taken a three-pronged strategy. It's taking into account emissions produced directly by its stores and by moving goods to them, emissions produced by the supply chain, and also emissions produced by customers as they consume the products they buy. Relationships are crucial to reducing the carbon footprint across supply chains, and the company has created a Tesco Knowledge Hub. This global online community for Tesco suppliers encourages them to share information, experiences and best practice in carbon reduction. This collaboration and transparency ensures the efficiencies and savings can be shared across the chain.

**A proactive commitment**

Enviro-Mark's Ann Smith anticipates that many more New Zealand businesses will ultimately

adopt similar reporting. "The UK is leading the way – the supply chain requirement is now the key reason for businesses signing up to our UK partner," she says. "Voluntarily reporting your carbon will show a proactive commitment to being a stronger long-term supply chain partner." Those doing this through Enviro-Mark Solutions have so far reduced approximately three million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is roughly the equivalent of carbon held by 2.5 million acres of forest. Independent verification of these reductions, such as that offered by Enviro-Mark Solutions, allows businesses to credibly enhance their reputations.

*Enviro-Mark Solutions (a wholly owned subsidiary of Landcare Research) provides environmental certification to organisations and products internationally, including CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme) and carboNZero; for further information, visit [www.enviro-mark.com](http://www.enviro-mark.com)*



**ASDA in the UK – its buyers are working with companies across its supply chain to develop a carbon reduction strategy that works for all**

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were extremely successful and I pride myself on the compliments I received from external and internal stakeholders on how well I managed the product and information flows from start to finish of the projects.

Besides these two new projects – which I found extremely exhilarating – I took on board a completely new role of production planning. It was a logical addition to my procurement role and I rose to the new challenge with 100% enthusiasm and dedi-

cation. Our company has since started several new projects and I can't say how excited and proud I am of our achievements.

**Career development**

I often ask myself, if I had not undertaken the professional diploma course at LTG, would I have had such confidence to excel in the new challenges and opportunities over the past 12 months? I know I would have given it a try and done my best, but I may not have had the confidence or ex-

pertise to put myself forward and take on these new responsibilities as well as I have done. The course gave me a solid background to my career development.

To top everything off, I received two academic awards at the CILT NZ annual awards late last year – the LTG-sponsored CILT NZ Top Graduate in the UK Professional Diploma in Logistics & Transport, and the Dexion-sponsored CILT NZ Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

I have also been invited to enrol

in a master's degree in supply chain management at Massey University.

These achievements have given me an invaluable confidence boost to continue to excel.

*The CILT-UK Professional Diploma in Logistics and Transport is offered in New Zealand by the Logistics Training Group; for further information, visit [www.ltg.co.nz](http://www.ltg.co.nz)*