

Case Study

Penske Teams up with Trinity to Quantify Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Challenge

Penske wanted to understand its GHG emissions in order to disclose its carbon footprint to customers and the CDP.



Solution

Trinity inventoried Penske's emissions and compiled a report documenting the inventory's boundaries, protocols and data sources, facilitating third party verification and enabling the company to make year-over-year comparisons.



Result

The partnership with Trinity helped Penske demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and reduce its footprint.

Penske is committed to managing its environmental impacts everywhere the company does business. As part of that commitment, it discloses environmental data through CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project), the global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states, and regions. Since 2008, Penske has partnered with Trinity to perform 13 annual entity-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories for its Penske Truck Leasing and Penske Logistics business units.

The inventory measures Penske's carbon footprint, from the natural gas and electricity used to operate its locations to the fuel and refrigerants used to run its fleets, and enables Penske to target GHG reduction efforts to the areas that will have the greatest impact on its emissions.



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Challenge

Emissions are calculated for each individual vehicle and source and updated each year based on the most relevant and recent emissions factors. With a large fleet of vehicles and operations across North America, collecting and managing emissions data for Penske Truck Leasing and Penske Logistics is no small feat.

Penske teamed up with Trinity to harness that data and quantify its environmental footprint. Some of Penske's customers, who were similarly concerned with GHG emissions, were asking Penske to supply that information.

Penske also wanted to ensure that it could compare current emissions to those of the past—a challenge that was complicated by the company's continued growth through acquisitions. Penske needed to be able to update its base year calculations annually to compare progress and assess the impact of its GHG reduction efforts.

Solution

When Penske first engaged Trinity to perform a GHG inventory used to compile their annual CDP report, the focus was on calculating and reporting Scope 1 emissions, which are direct emissions that occur from sources controlled or owned by an organization (e.g., company vehicles and facilities), and Scope 2 emissions, which are indirect emissions from purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heat, and cooling. As the partnership evolved, Trinity also began inventorying Scope 3 emissions, which are indirect emissions associated with company value chain (e.g., employees' commutes, business travel, and waste disposal). The GHG inventory quantifies carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) used as refrigerants.

For each annual report, Trinity evaluates each source category and quantifies the emissions associated with it, ensuring that the most current emissions factors are used. Trinity documents the methodology as well as all of the data collected, where it was collected from, and any assumptions the team makes due to missing information. The Penske Logistics emissions inventory is then verified by a third party before being submitted to the CDP, which scores Penske on its performance.

Trinity also adjusts the base year calculations when necessary to reflect any material changes to Penske's operations, enabling the company to accurately compare emissions year over year.

Result

Trinity leverages its extensive experience in GHG quantification and reporting as well as its familiarity with Penske's operations to enable the transportation leader to easily and accurately respond to the CDP's voluntary disclosure framework each year.

Penske also uses the emissions calculations performed by Trinity on an ongoing basis. The information helps Penske understand its footprint and inform its GHG reduction strategy. It also enables Penske to provide breakout reports for large customers who want to use the information for their own environmental, social, and governance (ESG) disclosures. This partnership, over a decade-long, has enabled Penske and Trinity to hone its GHG reporting year over year to ensure the resulting inventories meet the latest expectations for carbon disclosure.

About Trinity

Founded in 1974, Trinity Consultants helps organizations overcome complex, mission-critical challenges in EHS, engineering, and science through expertise in consulting, technology, training, and staffing. We support clients in geographies worldwide and across a broad range of sectors including industrial, energy, manufacturing, mining, life sciences, and commercial/institutional.