

Product name: CRedit360
Company name: CRedit360
Product review date: February 2010



SOFTWARE EVALUATION SUMMARY



Features	Outcome	Assessment Highlights
Set-up, navigation and consolidation of organization and sources	●	CRedit360 is made available with a clean database [referred to as a 'blank canvas' by the supplier] to begin and the quantities to be gathered, calculated and reported must be configured. Adding regions, facilities, emissions sources and categories is a matter of configuration with no practical limitations. Credit360 budgeted time to setup the system for the test case GHGMI provided and pointed out this is standard practice with any new customer.
GHG gases, sources and scopes	●	CRedit360 can be configured to include all Kyoto GHGs and an arbitrary number of additional emissions. CRedit360 has a concept called <i>Indicators</i> , which are implemented in a hierarchy that provides the attributes used to aggregate and report quantities. For example: Indicators > GHG Emissions > CO2 > Scope 1 > Diesel CO2 Emissions.
Activity data	●	Data can be entered manually in the system, can be imported from (excel) files or can be uploaded from meters. The Metering Module has rich functionality for gathering metered energy-use data and conditioning it to fit the time periods in the system. During the review, this module was revealed and demonstrated as a Credit360 representative was responding to interview questions.
Availability and use of emission factors and GWPs	◐	Emission factors and GWPs must be configured for each client and instance of CRedit360 implementation. At the time of testing, the software did not include databases for emissions factors or GWPs. Credit360 indicated they would provide emissions factors from authoritative sources if asked.



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GHG emissions calculations	●	Calculations are transparently shown in the system and produced results in accordance with the methods in the GHG Protocol. Using a case study dataset we calculated emissions for a fictitious company and benchmarked the software's output against the output of GHG Protocol tools. Upon testing the software produced accurate results in accordance with the methods in the GHG Protocol.
GHG emissions reporting	●	The <i>Corporate reporting</i> module enables customers to create a custom report in sections, assign submission and approval roles to named individuals in the system. In each section users can include narrative, charts, tables and indicator values. The version of CRedit360 tested has a means for tagging data for inclusion in specific programs, for example GRI. The CDP questionnaire is implemented as a CRedit360 Report form. CRedit360 has <i>Export-to-Excel</i> function on reports which worked flawlessly during the review.
Targets, policies and programs	●	Two optional modules, <i>Initiatives Tracker</i> and <i>Actions</i> provide functionality to set sustainability objectives, manage emissions-reductions-initiatives and monitor and report progress. The Modules were observed during demonstration, but not tested
Uncertainty analysis capability	●	If a customer / user designs a procedure for uncertainty assessment, it may be implemented as a <i>workflow</i> in CRedit360. Documenting the assessment beyond executing the <i>workflow</i> and collecting any data as part of it, can be recorded in the <i>Document Library</i> .
Workflow management functionality	●	CRedit360 uses a workflow engine for managing data gathering processes. Data quality processes can be defined in the workflow.
Quality assurance & quality control	●	Data quality processes can be defined in the workflow engine available in the system. Procedures and methods can be stored as documents in the <i>Document Library</i> (optional module), and linked from multiple locations within CRedit360. Links can also point to external web pages, such as sources of emissions factors. The workflow engine can be configured to prepare for and manage verification.
Tracking and documenting choices and changes	●	The software records and documents the user, date and time of each data entry or data change. CRedit360 has many annotation options for documenting sources, decisions, methods, reminders and custom help.
Ease of use	◐	CRedit360 is a highly flexible solution built on industry-standard relational database technology. The product is not hard to apply, but has many flexible attributes which must be learned. Users' training is therefore critical. Users are advised not to attempt to discover the best way to use the system independently, but to ask Credit360 for implementation best practices. When we did so, during the testing period, Credit360 responded with clear opinions on data gathering, reporting structures and IT engagement.



Features	Outcome	Assessment Highlights
<p>Training, documentation and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training available through web conference. 	<p>A CRedit360 manual is available for new users. Specific technical documents are available to Credit360 employees and may be shared with new clients and potential clients to illustrate specific functionality e.g. software architecture, automated data feeds, application security, etc.</p> <p>Credit360's customer support builds on a rich set of client examples from a variety of industries and applications.</p>



GENERAL COMMENTS:

CRedit360 functionality is consistent with the principles of the GHG Protocol. Highlights of the evaluation are summarized as follows:

- the software worked as expected with no errors encountered
- product functions are comprehensive reflecting requirements from a substantial user base
- logging of user actions including changes is noteworthy
- units conversion and emissions factors are not provided with the software 'out of the box' (tables of unit conversions and emissions factors are available upon request)

CRedit360 is a highly flexible solution and surprised us with its additional capabilities that were only revealed through the evaluation process, but were not obvious from the available software documentation. With flexibility comes the opportunity to realize a solution using CRedit360 in multiple ways, with some proving more optimal than others. Rather than attempt to discover the best way independently or implement on a first impulse, we recommend potential CRedit360 clients to engage and challenge CRedit360 early with your requirements and to ask for advice, based on how others have solved similar problems. When we asked, during the review process, we saw rich client examples from a variety of industries and applications.

To master CRedit360, training is critical. It is not that the product is hard to apply, but rather has many flexible attributes which must be learned. CRedit360 may solve more problems than you realize if you know how to apply it well. This realization was developed after multiple iterations through the testing and having to revise findings as additional CRedit360 capabilities were discovered.

**CRedit360 COMMENTS:**

This space is made available to the software provider to add, if desired, comments on GHGMI's review process or outcome. The statements below reflect the views of the software provider alone. GHGMI cannot express any opinion on the comments below, as they were not assessed by GHGMI during the software review process.

As an industry leading provider of sustainability management software, CRedit360 values the importance of providing functionality that meets and exceeds industry standards and frameworks. That our software has been evaluated by the GHG Management Institute to be in-line with the GHG Protocol demonstrates our commitment to achieving this goal.

The GHG management capabilities and best practices reviewed by GHGMI were developed and perfected over our 10+ year experience, with the implementation of more than 150 sustainability management solutions to many of the world's largest companies. Each system is set up and configured according to the client's specific sustainability objectives, business requirements, and organizational structure by our in house experts. This flexibility is critical to ensuring our solutions accurately match our client's sustainability data management requirements and deliver consistent, accurate and actionable data.

The thorough evaluation conducted by the GHG Management Institute reviewed the core capabilities of the CRedit360 system to meet standard practice laid out by the GHG protocol. The independent evaluation by GHGMI's experts reinforces other positive reviews by leading independent industry experts – in 2013 we were named a Market Leader by Groom Energy, an Industry Leader by Verdantix, and were awarded the Best Sustainability Software Award by Ethical Corporation.

About CRedit360:

CRedit360 helps companies to accurately capture, manage and analyze environmental, safety, supplier and social data; providing a 360-degree view on their sustainability performance. The modular web-based platform allows clients to seamlessly integrate all aspects of EHS and sustainability data management across multiple regions and business units, and rapidly share results with employees and external stakeholders. Founded in 2002, CRedit360 has over 150 customers including Philips, HEINEKEN, Staples and McDonald's. The company is headquartered in Cambridge, UK, with offices in the USA, Australia and Hong Kong. Visit www.credit360.com for more information about CRedit360 and our clients.