

We are all aware of our carbon footprint and what we can do to try and slow climate change, but what role can the security and business continuity sectors play in this? Do you think that at the moment much of what companies are claiming as 'green' is simply marketing speak and the security industry has other fish to fry before considering the environment? The Risk UK Panel deliberates the green issue..



**Richard Chappell
– Carlisle Security**

We do not own this planet, we are merely its guardians, holding it in trust for our children, as they will do in turn for theirs.

Some people will say that there are other fish to fry first. There are certainly other very important things. Profit, business growth, return on sale and staff welfare are just some of those very important things. Nevertheless, to enjoy the fruits of our labours, we need to have a viable planet to live on, and I find the prospect of an overheated, toxic wasteland distinctly unappealing.

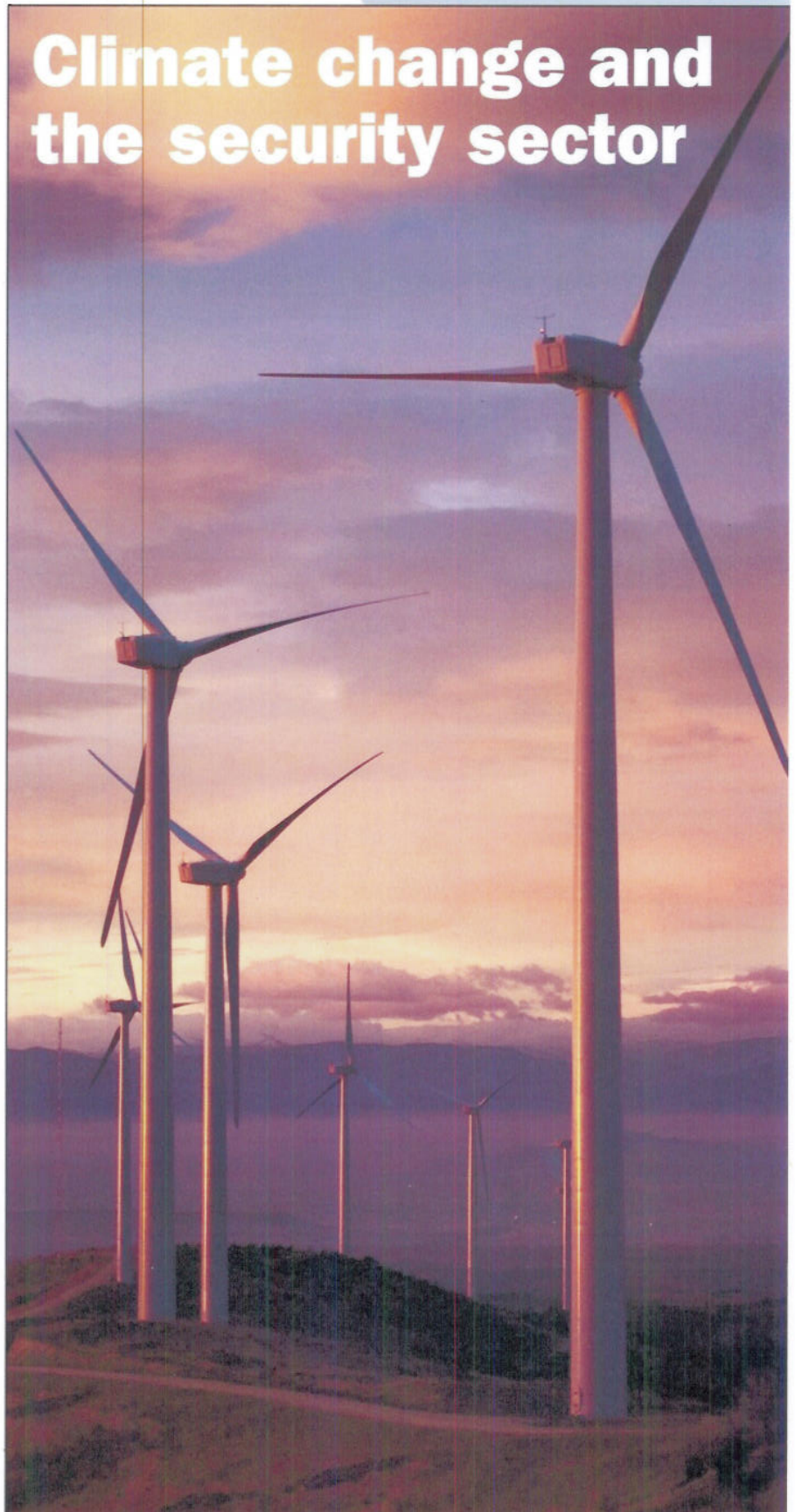
Now, clearly the security sector has less impact on the environment than manufacturing or air travel. This isn't to say however, that we can sit back and watch others improve the environment for us. We all have a part to play.

Since becoming Managing Director, I have been determined that Carlisle Security is as eco-friendly as possible. Whether this is through the introduction of zero and low-emission patrol vehicles; or abandoning the use of coffee machines which use plastic-lined sachets, everywhere you turn there is something which can be done. We've achieved a lot in the last few years, but we're not finished yet. It's a work in progress and perhaps it always will be.

Despite this, you'd be wrong to think that we were all mung bean eating eco-warriors with SIA licences. Green is good for business. Hybrid cars use less fuel and don't attract a Congestion Charge in London. Energy efficient equipment costs less to run. As our carbon footprint shrinks, so do our energy and fuel bills. Cutting costs and improving profitability by helping the environment is the classic "win-win"; and it's a win we can all share in.

It's true that the "Green" badge worn by some companies, is more badge than reality, but it doesn't matter. Edmund Burke said: "no man made a greater mistake than he who did nothing, because he could only do a little". If all someone can do is tell people they're eco-friendly, let them. Someone with more about them will see their claims, and decide to do the same – but for real. The need to keep up is compelling, and the more businesses which quote green credentials, the more businesses there will be with genuine green credentials. Eventually, those who today →

Climate change and the security sector



← only talk the talk, will find them themselves forced to walk the walk, as they discover that words alone and empty promises fool no one for long.

I would encourage everyone to follow our lead. If we all do a little, no one has to do a lot, and we all win. We are all good at guarding people and property. Now is the time to remember that we have a planet to guard as well.

Other fish to fry? Anyone want some cod from a poisoned ocean?



Mike Cripps – Insafe International

My understanding of "climate change" is that the Earth's climate is always changing, albeit over long time spans, and will continue to do so for ever more. The difference is that in the past the climate altered as a result of natural causes, whereas, when climate change is discussed now we are told this refers to changes as a result of human behaviour rather than nature.

If I have listened correctly to the many debates regarding this matter, the problem seems to be that we humans are releasing too many greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and, thereby, overheating the Earth. I appreciate this is a simplistic summary, but I understand it goes to the heart of the matter.

If this is the case, then the answer is for humans to release less greenhouse gases in an attempt to lessen climate change and reduce the environmental impact. Easily said!

The Kyoto Treaty was set-up in 1997 to consider what could be done to reduce global warming, which involved most world countries with the notable exception of the United States of America, one of the biggest polluters in the world (36% of emissions in 1990 – source BBC News)

Since that time it seems to me that very little has changed, in fact things are getting worse. Recent reports inform us that China is completing one coal-fired power station every week to support its expansion programme, adding to the already overheating greenhouse gases previously described.

Why this preamble? To try and put into perspective what the UK security and business continuity sectors role is within a worldwide problem and what impact, if any, it can have when compared to the massive increase in development taking place in China, India, the Middle East and many other locations around the world.

From an Insafe perspective, although a relatively small organisation we do have a policy of reducing our carbon footprint and promoting best practice throughout the whole company and with our suppliers, these include:

We are the only major UK safe supplier that sources the majority of our safes from the UK (95%), unlike other suppliers who bring in their products from the Far East. We believe this policy serves three distinct purposes: firstly we are supporting British made products and the UK economy, secondly we can guarantee the quality of the products and thirdly we do not have to ship or fly in our products from thousands of miles away.

Our fleet of service vehicles are all under 2.5 year's old and when replaced we source the most modern, fuel efficient engines available to reduce our fuel

consumption and CO2.

Car sharing is not only popular amongst staff, but positively encouraged by senior management who allow flexible start and finish times to accommodate the needs of two or three people sharing the same vehicle. Likewise, all members of staff are requested to recycle both plastic and paper waste as an extension of what they do at home.

Insafe have just commenced a paper free environment with the use of electronic systems to record and store documentation. We are also assessing PDA and new software systems that allow us to analyse the location of our forty plus engineers and identify the most efficient route to a particular service call-out; thus saving on fuel costs and harmful emissions.

As with many companies, we now adopt a "work from home" policy for several members of staff, that enables flexible working patterns for them and the company and, at the same time, helps reduce travel during rush hour situations.

Probably one of the most important steps Insafe has taken recently is to engage a project manager, whose role will include how we can further reduce our carbon footprint. He will be responsible for reviewing every aspect of our operations and make recommendations as to how we can lessen Insafe's impact on the environment.

Will the above measures make a difference? Yes, I think they will, but only if every other UK company and the many millions of organisations worldwide take similar action.

I perceive willingness on the part of the public to try and make a difference through recycling, use of public transport, cycling to work, using fuel efficient vehicles, etc. I also see companies like mine striving to play its part in reducing their carbon footprint through the measures I have already described.

My personal view is that people and companies will change with regard to reducing climate change, but this will take time. However, the Government of the day also needs to play a role in providing incentives to encourage further reductions and, if incentives do not work, they may have to consider penalties; in other words using the carrot and stick approach.



Stefan Hay – Fire and Security Association

Like all business sectors, the security industry and more specifically, from an FSA perspective, the electronic security systems sector, cannot afford to ignore the growing threat associated with climate change and must, if for no other reasons than corporate social responsibility and transparent business ethics, use the opportunity to offer its customers low carbon emission based and more sustainable business solutions. The actual threat offered by climate change, however, is about far more than just reducing a carbon footprint, which is why masquerading under 'green' credentials, while actually paying only 'lip service' to sustainability will seriously back-fire in the long-term.

Talk to most people about climate change and they will invariably voice opinions on the increase in the average global temperature, melting polar ice, the rise in sea levels and the extreme weather patterns, but most have not considered the wider socio-economic impacts such as loss of infrastructure, resource scarcity

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and mass displacement of peoples and the associated security consequences, such as civil unrest, inter-communal violence and international instability. In one sense, the affects of climate change could be seen as business opportunities for the security industry, but the examples of what will happen if climate change continues at its currently predicted rate, discussed, for example, in the Oxford Business Group report: *An Uncertain Future – Law Enforcement, National Security and Climate Change* – by Chris Abbott, are so alarming, that even the most ruthless businesses may think twice and prefer to offer proactive green solutions rather than reactive security solutions.

According to Mr Abbott, it is almost certain that, by 2050, droughts, food shortages and flooding will lead to the mass movement of up to 200 million environmental refugees, which will inevitably lead to knee-jerk demands for tighter border controls which are unlikely to succeed in the long-term. A recent report from the EU believes that such mass migration could start as early as 2020. Such a rapid rise in immigration will impose additional burdens on law enforcement agencies and is likely to lead to changes in the rates and types of crimes, due to cultural differences regarding offences like drink-driving, honour beatings and knife crime. New racial tensions and religious differences will also impact on the security of communities. This in turn will lead to businesses and the general public placing greater demands on the security industry to supply personnel and electronic based solutions to protect property and assets.

So will we really get to this level of extremity by as soon as 2050 or indeed 2020? Well, according to Mr Abbott, with most of the world's cities, and of course ports, located on coasts or river deltas, there is a clear threat from the rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions to human life and property and other key infrastructure such as communication, transport and energy supply networks. Even those countries not directly affected in this way will have commercial and military assets overseas and citizens living abroad that may come under threat. The economic impact alone of such losses could be enormous.

In fact, The Stern Review published by the British Treasury at the end of 2006 concluded that if the more dramatic predictions come to pass, then inaction on climate change could cost the world economy more than 20% of global GDP each year (whereas the costs of effective action could be limited to just 1% of global GDP each year).

In his book *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*, Mark Lynas describes an even bleaker future. He explains, with a degree-by-degree guide, that a 1°C increase in average global temperature will lead to fresh water being lost from a third of the planets surface and all low lying coastlines will flood, a 2°C increase will lead to Europeans dying of heatstroke, raging forest fires and a third of all species facing extinction, a 3°C increase will bring super-hurricane activity and mass starvation in Africa, 4°C will make most of Britain uninhabitable due to severe flooding and much of the Mediterranean will be abandoned,

5°C will cause the mass migration of humans trying to live off the land like animals and a 6°C increase will end with the extinction of life on Earth under spectacular apocalyptic storms, floods, hydrogen sulphide gas and fireballs – the good news is some fungi variations will survive.

World events such as the Pacific Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the more recent floods in Burma, earthquakes in China and famines in Ethiopia and India have given us a taste of the enormity of infrastructure devastation such natural disasters cause and the resources required to respond, but in the case of Hurricane Katrina we also witnessed, in the relatively civilized USA, the mass displacement and associated lawlessness some believe could be the norm if such disasters become more frequent.

While the ultimate solution to addressing climate change, environmental degradation and achieving sustainability lies in diplomacy, international cooperation and political commitment, such as that demonstrated by the European Heads of State, who have agreed to work to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% in 2020, there is still a crucial role for the business community, including the security industry, to play in driving the 'Green' and 'Sustainability' messages forward.

One could argue, that against such a backdrop of 'pending doom' it is already too late to make a difference and writing this article has certainly had a philosophical impact on me, but we must start somewhere and already many FSA members are reporting that their service delivery relationships with customers are changing. It is no longer enough for electronic security systems providers / installers to concentrate on financial issues. They are expected to take responsibility for their environmental and social impacts, understand the interests and demands of stakeholders and to demonstrate through greater transparency that they are behaving responsibly.

Referring back to our forefathers and making greater usage of naturally occurring features or existing environmental factors is becoming increasingly popular in the risk assessment and security planning process. This approach, now commonly known as 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' has almost developed into a stand-alone science with many excellent training courses and publications available to support its theories. This combined with new technologies such as the use of renewable energy sources such as solar panels and small wind turbines to power security systems are beginning to make a difference.

Using an accredited remote monitoring service provider also has green credentials. A network of alarms and/or cameras, activated by an event, is not only more efficient than several on site security guards, but it also negates the need for those guards to travel to site and cuts down on the energy used by the guards whilst on site. Some EMEA Corporate Risk Directors I have spoken to have advised me that their entire security operations are controlled from Central Monitoring Stations in the UK. Having said that, some →

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more proactive Guarding companies have begun to demonstrate that guards can also play a role in assisting their customers to be greener by turning off lights, non-essential equipment and increasingly by dealing with wider facilities management issues such as recycling and waste management and by offering more efficient business support functions.

Security companies can use local providers to supply their uniforms, equipment and stationery and patrol vehicles and other company vehicles can be replaced, when necessary, by more fuel efficient and lower emission vehicles all of this will reduce the carbon footprint. As will smarter ways of working such as cutting down on postage, greater use of email, video conferencing, home working and by ensuring that everything that can be recycled or re-issued is. Companies should also consider investing into community projects and sponsoring junior sports clubs rather than spending vast amounts of money on corporate entertaining and tonnes of corporate freebees, which are usually produced under appalling working conditions in South East Asia. Security companies should also check out the green credentials of their own service providers.

To conclude, consumers and customers always want more. They want higher quality products and services, but they also want improved efficiency and value for money. But increasingly they are balancing financial considerations against their own set of values, ethics and corporate behaviour. Sustainability, green issues and climate change will become important factors in their purchasing decisions and suppliers in the security industry will need to be prepared and adapt if they want to be the preferred suppliers of the future and if they want to ensure we have a future left to secure.



Richard Bailey – Advance Security

Paying attention to green issues should be seen by the industry as an opportunity and not a hindrance. If we are to work towards greater recognition as a professional service, we can't simply pay lip service to the big issues that the rest of the corporate community is taking seriously. Yes, going green can bring a financial cost, but we see it as an investment in the future of our business; we are simply aligning ourselves with the standards and values of the industries we serve. They look at their security provider to see if their own standards of environmental care are reflected – and we in turn do the same with our suppliers, from uniform and stationery, to office furniture and vehicles.

The PR industry warned recently against 'greenwashing', after a survey suggested that companies who fail to live up to their green promises risk greater reputational damage than companies who do not even present themselves as green. We couldn't agree more. We made a decision early on that carbon off-setting simply wouldn't work for us; although we appreciate that it has its place and can play a part in a wider environmental strategy, we believed that it

would be churlish to simply off-set our carbon emissions without taking practical steps to reduce our carbon footprint. Instead, we took the decision to work towards a programme of gradual and consistent reduction in our carbon emissions, both at a corporate level and an individual level, by encouraging all of our staff to take part and minimise their own personal environmental impact.

Corporate policies we've introduced include a move away from petrol powered vehicles; the introduction of telephone conferencing to reduce the need to travel to meetings; recycling of paper, print cartridges, mobile phones and PDAs across all offices and client sites; and a reduction in the use of paper through the management and reporting of meetings entirely via PowerPoint and Blackberry. We are also in the process of assessing our use of heating and lighting across all of our offices.

At an employee level we've introduced a personal assessment programme, which allows our staff to analyse their individual environmental impact both at home and work, make suggestions for company-wide improvements and receive vouchers as a reward for effective environmental initiatives. We believe in the 'carrot' over 'stick' approach – although we cannot compel all of our employees to change their personal habits, we hope that by setting an example at a company level that it at least encourages them to think about their own carbon footprint. The feedback we've received has been very encouraging and we've already introduced a number of initiatives suggested by individual staff members.

One of the most concerning statistics from our initial assessment of the company's carbon footprint, was the eighty per cent of our carbon emissions that came from vehicle usage. Naturally this was the first area of our business that we focused on as an area for improvement and we've made great strides in this regard since, but if this statistic is replicated across the security industry the potential impact on the environment is both sizable and worrying. With our customers increasingly embracing corporate and social responsibility and issues of the environment, and looking to their suppliers to reflect those values, we believe that it is imperative that the security profession follows suit.



Keith Tilley – SunGard Availability Services

SunGard Availability Services' Corporate Responsibility (CR) commitment is, "To endeavour to apply the highest standards of corporate responsibility in every aspect of our business and all interactions with our staff, customers, other stakeholders, the wider community and the environment."

We believe in corporate environmental responsibility and have long acknowledged the benefits of 'operating green' as good business practice. We're proud of the fact that our business model has helped to minimise

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industry's overall environmental impact for four decades by providing shared, high-intensity IT resources to businesses so these organisations do not have to consume redundant servers, electrical power and other resources themselves. Our business, by its very nature, helps other organisations to cut their carbon footprint and therefore slow climate change.

SunGard became a member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in 2007. The WBCSD brings together the leading international companies that seek to achieve sustainable development via economic growth, ecological growth and social progress. WBCSD is a CEO-led, global association of nearly 200 companies dealing exclusively with business and sustainable development and provides a platform for them to share knowledge, experiences and best practice.

In addition to our membership of WBCSD, SunGard is an active member of The Green Grid: The consortium of leading information technology companies and professionals seeking to improve energy efficiency in data centres around the globe and whose members include IBM, Sun Microsystems, Cisco and APC.

Other environmental initiatives that we are involved with include the aggressive adoption of green technology, researching and adopting best of breed components for our infrastructure and systems. Examples include advanced uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) that use rotary units rather than batteries, free cooling chillers and air conditioning, together with new server technology that consumes less power and generates less heat. We are also piloting virtualisation technologies to consolidate server usage and improve operational efficiency.

During 2007 we consulted with the Carbon Trust and are currently reviewing their recommendations for reducing carbon load and energy consumption of our primary data centre the London Technology Centre. In addition we are reviewing possible partners, both within and without The Green Grid, with whom to work to ensure all UK locations operate in line with Government guidelines for carbon emissions and deriving energy from sustainable sources.

Other current initiatives include the use of 'borrowed' daylight and energy-efficient lighting, highly efficient computer room air conditioning (CRAC) units, operating in economiser mode for air handling equipment and working with green power providers locally.

Of course, some so-called 'green' initiatives do amount to little more than marketing activities. However, at SunGard we do always look to include environmental factors within our decisions, from top level strategy right down to the types of paper and electronic equipment we use.



Graham Chick – GemaTech

I am delighted to be able to respond to this question as it deals with a subject which is very close to my heart – the adoption of more flexible ways of working.

To me, the adoption of more flexible ways of working (meaning the ability to work seamlessly, from anywhere, with secure access to both voice and data) has to be the most sensible – and most cost effective

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– answer to the reduction of an individual's personal carbon footprint as well as providing so many other benefits such as improving the much talked about work / life balance and providing the most cost effective business continuity solution should it no longer be possible to work from a company's conventional office.

It is for this reason that I can never understand why London (amongst many other Cities here in the UK) is one never ending building site, encouraging more and more people to commute in ever more crowded trains and motorways – when the British Government is encouraging the construction of zero carbon houses – but which require the occupants of those houses to travel ever further distances (presumably in their cars and trains) to reach their conventional place of work in these ever expanding cities thereby counter acting the savings they have made by living in these carbon free environments by pumping ever more CO2 into the Atmosphere. Wouldn't it be far more sensible to work, at least a few days a week, from within these newly constructed carbon neutral homes to save on both CO2 emissions as well as reducing the congestion on the already over crowded motorways, commuter trains and buses?

Pursuing such a flexible working philosophy also enables companies to adopt a comprehensive business continuity solution by default – because if some unfortunate digger driver cuts through your telephone cables, or you are unable to access your conventional place of work for any reason – such as a power cut, fire, flood or terrorist attack then it is a simple task to simply revert to your tried and tested flexible working strategy! So simple really so why is it so difficult for Senior Management to embrace it?

Management don't seem to realise that it has been possible to distribute data to any number of remote locations (including homes) for some time now, ever more securely and ever more quickly given the introduction of Broadband. It is now possible via specialist companies, such as GemaTech, to distribute incoming calls directed to individual DDIs to any number of remote locations – with the added ability of being able to securely voice record those inbound calls as well as selected outbound calls made from any remote location.

So...the technology is available...it just needs Senior Management to think "out of the box" for a change and adopt more flexible ways of working which will not only improve employees work / life balance and reduce a company's carbon footprint at a stroke – but also provide a comprehensive, cost effective and resilient business continuity solution in the process!