

Atmospheric emissions

The main source of atmospheric emissions is from boilers. In terms of the new Air Quality Act, none of Mpact's boilers requires Atmospheric Emissions Licences (AEL) though they are now subject to Controlled Emitter regulations released in 2013. All relevant operations are in discussion with their local authorities to ensure compliance with these regulations. However, the Copeland Reactor at the Piet Retief Mill does require an AEL and this has been obtained in a licence that also provides the necessary Controlled Emitter authorisations for the site's boilers and other atmospheric emission sources.

Controls are in place to monitor sulphur dioxide (SO₂), particulates and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the boilers and these are reported monthly. Emissions are managed through the use of good quality (low sulphur) coal, boiler efficiency optimisation and maintenance of grit arrestors in the boiler stacks. The primary focus remains energy optimisation to reduce the amount of fuel burned in the first place.

As discussed under the Energy section, Mpact is actively addressing energy consumption. These efforts double as the means of addressing global warming through greenhouse gas emission reductions. Energy reductions noted above therefore account for reductions in both Scope 1 (direct emissions from site) and Scope 2 (arising from electricity purchased) emissions. Scope 1 emissions were 405,240 tonne CO₂e (2014: 388,086 tonne CO₂e) and Scope 2 emissions were 430,529 tonne CO₂e (2014: 404,234 tonne CO₂e) bringing total Scope 1 and 2 emissions to 835,769 tonne CO₂e (2014: 792,320 tonne CO₂e). This increase is attributable to the incorporation of new business and increased output of existing businesses. For the manufacturing operations, the total carbon emissions per tonne of product was 1.02 tonne CO₂e (2014: 1.02 tonne CO₂e) with Scope 1 emissions contributing 0.5 tonne CO₂e (2014: 0.5 CO₂e) and Scope 2 emissions contributing 0.5 tonne CO₂e (2014: 0.5 CO₂e).

Responding to potential Carbon legislation

For Government to meet South Africa's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below business as usual by 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025 they intend implementing a "mix of measures" aimed at reducing carbon emission and driving the country towards a "green" economy. The measures proposed include a carbon tax, carbon budgets for businesses, Desired Emission Reduction Outcome targets for sectors, declaration of greenhouse gasses as "priority pollutants", and on the positive side, energy reduction tax incentives.

Mpact has actively engaged with Government both directly and indirectly, through industry associations, to understand and give input into the development of these measures. The activities mentioned in the Energy section should also be noted as Mpact's approach to managing its carbon footprint and reducing the potential impact of legislative measures on the business.



Compliance

As a socially responsible company, Mpact recognises that compliance with legislation is essential to the sustainability of its operations. Mpact is committed to keeping abreast of environmental legislation and actively participates in the review process through membership of the Paper Manufacturing Association of South Africa (PAMSA) Environmental Committee which gives input to draft legislation. Our operations also subscribe to legal registers tailored to their specific situations and are notified by the service providers of changes in legislation.

All operations have Environmental Management Systems in place most certificated to the ISO 14001 standard. These operations are audited internally and externally for ISO and legal compliance.

Environmental excellence awards

The Scarab Award is presented to the operation that performs best in an externally conducted survey on environmental management practices. The overall 2015 winner was the Springs Mill, Gauteng, while the Springs Mill and Recycling Maydon Road plants were awarded Platinum status awards for environmental management.

SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2015 substantial focus went into developing the foundations of an energy management policy, plan and strategy for Mpact. This will also translate into a greenhouse gas management framework. Added to this is good work done on both water and waste management across the business, giving Mpact a solid base for addressing its natural capital and environmental sustainability.

Human capital is addressed in Mpact's growing focus on safety and health initiatives amongst employees, contractors and their communities.

Mpact understands that it exists within a strained social environment and actively invests in social capital through the CSI programme and its pursuit of empowerment, employment equity and B-BBEE initiatives.

