

Most of the fruit we market comes from emerging and developing countries and we are aware of the potential social and environmental issues associated with the products that we source and sell. This is a complicated issue, but by supporting programmes such as GlobalGAP, the Ethical Trading Initiative, and the Carbon Trust Standard, we are keen to minimise the impact of our activities upon the environment, especially in our source countries. And nearer to home, our ripening centres use cool water temperature control systems and employ 'backhaul' [trying to ensure that lorries are never allowed to travel empty] wherever possible to reduce carbon emissions from road transport.

Bananas are still the mainstay of our business and we were delighted to read a recent report which concluded that bananas are a great example of a climate-friendly food. The fact that most bananas are transported to market in bulk-packed, recyclable, cardboard cartons (minimising the amount of packaging required) aboard specialist cargo vessels (a very efficient and low-impact mode of transport) is helping to contribute to a more sustainable supply approach.



The Carbon Trust Standard

The UK Carbon Trust Standard recognises organisations for reducing their carbon emissions. Based on a rigorous independent assessment, it certifies that organisations have measured, managed and reduced their carbon emissions and are committed to reducing them in the future.

In 2010 Fyffes Group Limited (UK) became the first UK Banana Importer and Distributor to be awarded the Carbon Trust Standard, after taking action to reduce its carbon emissions by nearly 8% over the preceding three years. The Carbon Trust Standard re-certify companies every two years and

Fyffes maintains its certification (which has now been extended to include our centre in Swords, Ireland) and its commitment to continue to work to reduce emissions.

At the same time as being recertified for carbon reduction, Fyffes also achieved Carbon Trust Waste Standard certification for reducing the amounts of waste that goes to landfill. Waste in landfill sites produces greenhouse gases so Fyffes is now sending its waste to where it can be reused, recycled or used as an energy source.

This process helps companies like Fyffes to make on-going reductions and improvements. The Carbon Trust Standard enables us to understand what we do and to plan to improve our environmental impact.