

## **Verification Statement**

### **Google – CY2013 Global GHG Inventory**

#### **Background**

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Cameron-Cole, LLC (Cameron-Cole) was retained by Google to perform an independent verification of its Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory for Calendar Year (CY) 2013, which was developed according to the World Resources Institute (WRI)/World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (2004 revised edition). Our opinion on the results of the inventory, with respect to the verification objectives and criteria, is provided in this statement.

#### **Responsibility of Google & Independence of Verification Provider**

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Google has sole responsibility for the content of its GHG Inventory. Cameron-Cole accepts no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the GHG emissions results since they were submitted to us for review. Based on internationally accepted norms for impartiality, we believe our review represents an independent assessment of Google's Global CY2013 GHG Emissions Inventory. Finally, the opinion expressed in this verification statement should not be relied upon as the basis for any financial or investment decisions.

#### **Level of Assurance**

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The level of assurance is used to determine the depth of detail that a Verification Body designs into the Verification Plan to determine if there are material errors, omissions or misstatements in a company's GHG assertions. Two levels of assurance are generally recognized – reasonable and limited. Reasonable Assurance generates the highest level of confidence that an emissions report is materially correct (with the exception of Absolute Assurance which is generally impractical for companies to achieve). Limited Assurance provides less confidence, and involves less detailed examination of GHG data and supporting documentation. Limited Assurance statements assert that there is no evidence that an emissions report is not materially correct. Cameron-Cole's verification of Google's Global GHG Emissions Inventory for CY2013 was constructed to provide a Limited Level of Assurance.

#### **Objectives**

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The primary objectives of this verification assignment are as follows:

- Determine whether the GHG emissions assertions meets/exceeds the 95% threshold for accuracy; and,
- Evaluate the conformance of Google's accounting and calculation methodologies, processes and systems to the GHG Protocol.

#### **Verification Criteria**

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Cameron-Cole conducted verification activities in accordance with ISO-14064-3:2006(E) Specifications with Guidance for the Validation and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions. The Google inventory was prepared to, and verified against, the GHG Protocol.

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### Google – CY2013 Global GHG Inventory

#### Verification Scope & Assertions

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The scope of this verification assignment covers Google's Global CY2012 GHG Emissions Inventory, which includes carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from Scope 1, Scope 2, Scope 3, and biogenic sources.

Assertions in the Google CY2013 Global GHG Inventory as verified by Cameron-Cole, are as follows:

- **Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are 1,286,626 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>:** 1,245,253 tonnes of Scope 2 (indirect) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity purchases and 41,373 tonnes of Scope 1 (direct) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from combustion.
- Google has elected to optionally disclose the total Scope 2 emissions without applied Renewable Energy Credits (REC) deductions. Under this scenario, Scope 2 indirect emissions totalled 1,831,142, bringing the grand total for Scope 1 and Scope 2 sources to 1,872,514 MT CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Scope 3 emissions are reported to be 80,094 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Declared biogenic emissions associated with the combustion of landfill gas and liquid biofuels are 14,481 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.

Limited to the boundaries listed in the Verification Scope & Assertions section.

*Aggregate totals from line items listed above may not add up to the totalized emissions due to rounding.*

#### Verification Opinion

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Based on the method employed and the results of our verification activities, **Cameron-Cole has found no evidence of material errors, omissions or misstatements in Google's Global CY2013 GHG Inventory\***. Cameron-Cole also found that Google's GHG accounting and calculation methodologies, processes and systems for this inventory conform to the GHG Protocol.

**Cameron-Cole, LLC**

June 2, 2014



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**Connie Sasala**

Senior Independent Reviewer

Chief Sustainability Officer

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\* Limited to the boundaries listed in the Verification Scope & Assertions section.