

Practical Sustainability embedded in Muntons Malting Barley Supply Contracts

Muntons wish to encourage growers to respect the environment and to work with us on our low carbon pledge to help us lower the environmental impact within our supply chain, by utilising growing practices that will reduce supply chain carbon footprint. We have won national awards for sustainability but we are committed to making requests of our suppliers that are practical and enable cost control by introduction of sustainable methods (see the link below that explains the options we support)

<http://www.psmuntons.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Low-Carbon-Statement-2015.pdf>

We accept and actively encourage growers to use assured alternate fertiliser substitutes produced to the appropriate standard: compost (PAS100) and anaerobic digestate (PAS110). Where possible and where it does not increase cost, we ask our growers to use fertiliser sourced from a low carbon manufacturer (abated nitrogen fertiliser).

For compost information <http://www.earthsupply.co.uk/>

Progress on monitoring our farm supply carbon footprint

We have worked with our direct farm suppliers to assess their carbon footprint and now have a good measure of the range of carbon footprints that are achievable. Producing Low Carbon malt is of course a journey and encompasses many options that farmers can choose to make their barley 'low carbon'. It is important to realise that by low carbon we do not mean that everyone will produce to a particular number for carbon intensity. That just will not be possible because barley is grown on very different land types which require different fertiliser application rates and soil management. What we are doing is to illustrate and encourage our growers to adopt more and more low carbon practices to continually improve their environmental impact and reduce their input costs.

The range of carbon footprints is shown in the graphic. Readers should not fall into the trap of thinking that any particular value is low carbon. What is low for one farmer may well not be achievable for another hence we need to understand more about the land types and what is possible for that location. It is part of a journey that we are on with farmers. A fine line exists between creating suspicion amongst the supply chain that we don't understand the impact of soil type and will not take barley from those with higher carbon footprints. Overall of course we have to balance the quality we require with the carbon footprint achievable to get that quality. Naturally we would prefer to take greater volumes of barley from those using low carbon farming techniques and inputs and this will lead to an overall lowering of carbon footprint in our desire to procure low carbon barley.

