# WWF-HESTIA data exercise

WWF-UK is currently looking for a consultant for a period of three months (September-November 2021) to work with Life Cycle Assessment data from farms in the UK and data from UK food businesses, upload these data to [HESTIA](https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/food-sustainability-analytics/), and support with engaging UK food retailers around data sharing and environmental impact assessment. This role is a major opportunity to contribute to improving the environmental sustainability of both the UK and global food systems.

## Background

The way we produce and consume food has a huge bearing on biodiversity loss, deforestation, climate change, water scarcity, and water pollution. Our ability to measure the environmental impacts of food is crucial and is improving day by day. However, there remains a clear need for information that will enable concerted action from different actors across our food system. Currently, information on the sustainability of foods is typically incomparable, unavailable, or unknown. There is often very little up-to-date, reliable, or practical information on the sustainability of foods produced using different practices or in different geographies. Without this information, the foundations for creating sustainable food supply-chains are missing.

Data availability and transparent information flows are of crucial importance. There is a need to put data within reach, and to act on this information across the entire food value chain. To meet this challenge WWF-UK is supporting the creation of a key part of the infrastructure for more sustainable food systems – HESTIA – led by the Oxford University and WWF-UK.

HESTIA – or Harmonized Environmental Storage and Tracking of the Impacts of Agriculture – is an open-access cloud-hosted database, coupled with machine learning, which acts as a repository for researchers and producers to upload their environmental impact assessments from a range of sources (field trials to full supply-chains assessments).

## Purpose and scope

The purpose of this role to enable a select number of retailers to explore and demonstrate HESTIA.

Each retailer will contribute a dataset for evaluation. The dataset should contain activity data (i.e. information on inputs, products, and practices), and optionally emissions/LCA data calculated using the methods they currently employ. Where emissions data are provided, these results will be compared to the results to those calculated using HESTIA’s default methods and the reasons for difference will be explored.

The consultant will also support work with food businesses to understand how the new filetype and data platform could help improve their ability to calculate and share environmental impact data.

Contributing to this project will support longer-term goals around improved Scope 3 emissions data; improved GHG and other environmental impact reporting; and improved supply chain environmental transparency.

## Person specification

The successful bidder will receive their basic database training working on general HESTIA uploads before focusing on the data from food retailers. The consultant is also expected to work closely with WWF-UK supporting business engagement.

The ideal person for this role will need:

* strong attention to detail;
* strong analytical skills (quantitative);
* experience with Life Cycle Assessment data;
* an ability to engage with large companies.

Consultants must be proficient in spoken and written English.

## Tasks

The successful bidder will:

* work with environmental impact and activity datasets from UK retailers and upload them (in collaboration with the businesses) to the HESTIA platform;
* engage with retailers to help them understand the results;
* help debug and identify errors and issues;
* write a final brief report;
* engage with workshops for food businesses.

## Submission

Proposals should include:

* relevant background of the applicant including CV;
* cost estimate for the duration of the project to include the daily rate. Please also include any applicable charity discounts you may offer;
* a brief overview of your environmental and social activities;
* Proposals will be assessed using a selection of criteria, likely including fit to brief, previous experience of consultancy, value for money.

**Closing date to submit proposals:** 5pm, Friday 27 August

**Guidance on budget available**: £12,000 including VAT, if applicable

**Date:** 10/08/2021

**Commissioned by:** WWF-UK, Living Planet Centre, Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LL

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