

# Carbon Footprinting Software for Food Companies

#### **ABOUT HOWGOOD**

HowGood is an independent research company and SaaS data platform with the world's largest database on food product sustainability. With more than 90,000 on-farm emissions factors for food ingredients, HowGood helps leading brands, retailers, suppliers, and restaurants to measure, manage, and communicate their environmental and social impact.

## Welcome to HowGood's Carbon Footprinting Software 2026 Buyer's Guide

Whether you're searching for more accurate, automated carbon footprinting, fulfilling ESG reporting requirements, or fast-tracking progress toward corporate reduction goals, you've likely discovered an ever-growing range of solutions to explore.

As the demand for sustainability reporting continues to rise, so do the tools designed to meet it. From foundational spend-based reporting to advanced, Al-driven platforms offering granular insights, the market now offers a wide spectrum of options.

So how do you choose? The HowGood team is here to help you stay aligned with the latest global research, regulatory shifts, and technological advancements to ensure your solutions remain future-ready. Reach out any time to learn more.

Below, we've gathered the key questions our customers tell us were critical in selecting a software solution.

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## Top questions to ask when comparing footprinting solutions

These are the key questions HowGood recommends asking when evaluating sustainability software solutions, organized by topic area, with key criteria listed first.

#### Product Carbon Footprinting

Are you specialized in the food industry, providing dedicated sustainability and LCA expertise?
Is your carbon footprinting methodology 3rd party verified (for example by the Carbon Trust) and aligned to the GHG Protocol Product Lifecycle Accounting and Reporting Standard and ISO 14067?
Can you integrate supplier-provided PCFs/EFs/LCAs, with built-in Data Quality Scoring?
Do you automate your PCF calculation to produce accurate, custom PCFs at scale, consistent with the demands of large wholesalers and retailers?
Can your platform integrate with an external Corporate Carbon Footprint provider?
Are you able to calculate and visualize GHG emissions across the entire product lifecycle — including packaging — from cradle-to-grave?
Is your platform PACT Conformant, ensuring interoperability with supply chain partners?
What is the size and source of your agricultural emissions factors database?
Do you have pre-validated supplier PCFs?
Can your system ingest and prioritize granular primary data (ingredient, origin, farm practices) while clearly disclosing the use and extent of proxies or global average data?
Does your solution account for activity data including ingredient concentration/allocation ratios, sourcing location, certifications, and agricultural practices?
Does your platform utilize AI to automate PCF calculations at-scale?
Do you use Bottom-Up Carbon Accounting, aligning your Product Carbon Footprinting to your Scope 3 emissions reporting and Corporate Carbon Footprint (CCF)?
Do you offer data visualization features and recommended abatement strategies to help reduce product footprint?
Do you offer competitive benchmarking, to understand how product impacts compare to others in the industry?

Learn about product carbon footprinting in HowGood's platform



#### GHG Accounting

Can you provide full-scope carbon accounting (Scopes 1, 2, and 3), and do you support Bottom-Up carbon accounting methods?
Does your system integrate packaging data to assist with compliance reporting for regulations like EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) and the PPWR (Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation)?
How many food companies do you currently support globally with GHG Accounting?
Is your methodology aligned to the GHG Protocol, ISO 14067 and SBTi FLAG? Are you third-party verified for the GHG Protocol and ISO 14067?
Does your solution use a bottom-up approach to roll up product-level data (PCFs) to accurately quantify the corporate Scope 3 footprint?
Do you offer exports and reporting support for mandatory climate disclosure and regulatory compliance, particularly for EU regulations like CSRD and CSDDD?
Do you offer data visualizations for identifying areas of risk on the ingredient, product, and brand-level?
Can you calculate biogenic emissions and break them out?
Can you dynamically analyze the impact of nested materials, and aggregate them at the commodity, product, brand or portfolio level?
Can you provide a FLAG Annex Report that analyzes the emissions of all my ingredients, and aggregates them at the commodity level?

#### Carbon Reduction & Abatement

Does your tool offer scenario planning to model the impact of ingredient swaps or sourcing changes?  Do you offer supplier engagement features for supporting carbon reduction strategy?
Does your tool allow for intervention modeling and GHG footprint forecasting? What variables are integrated into this model?
Do you offer an "apples to apples" comparison of the impact of sourcing from different suppliers?
Can you easily save, export, and share intervention scenarios both in the platform, cross-functionally, and with supply chain partners?
Does the platform utilize AI to provide guidance or suggestions for making product updates to decrease carbon footprint?
Can you model the impact on metrics other than carbon to understand trade-offs?

Learn about carbon reduction & abatement in HowGood's platform

#### **Supplier Engagement**

Do you offer an integrated, digital solution for supplier engagement that can both ingest and score LCAs, EFs, or PCFs from your mature suppliers, and automatically calculate custom PCFs for your more immature suppliers?
Does your database include vetted supplier data out-of-the-box for quick baseline creation?
Does the platform support the collection of PACT-aligned PCF files and provide automated data verification tools to ensure supplier submissions are audit-ready?
How does the platform validate and ingest primary supplier data against its proxy factors, ensuring data quality and reduction of uncertainty?
Do you have a discoverability platform or feature for identifying new ingredient suppliers to reduce your footprint?
Can you facilitate collaboration by sharing pre-verified impact data and reduction targets (e.g., insets/offsets, science-based targets) with both upstream suppliers and downstream customers?

Learn about supplier engagement in HowGood's platform

#### Auditability

Is your platform 3rd party verified as aligned to the GHG Protocol, ISO 14067, Land Sector and Removals (LSR) guidance, and/or SBTi FLAG?
Do you provide transparency into data sources within an export-ready methodology document?
How is your methodology and reporting kept up-to-date with changing global frameworks and scientific research?
Does your platform offer transparency and insight into research updates that have been made that may have an impact on emissions baselines?
Do you offer advanced filtering and exports for regulatory compliance and internal auditing?
Do you support reporting to CSRD, GRI, CDP, SBTi, and other global ESG bodies?
Has your company ever successfully defended your data or methodology with a formal auditing body?
Learn about auditability in HowGood's platform

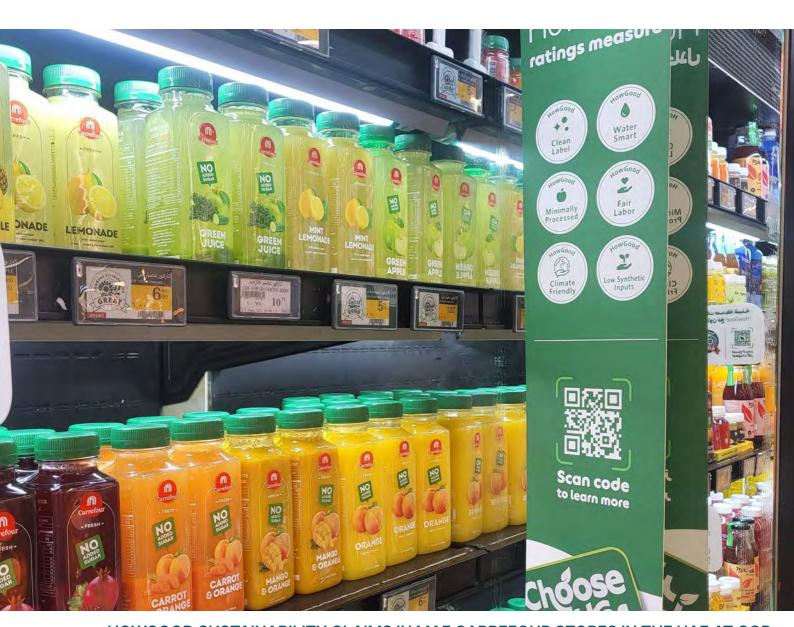
#### Impact Beyond Carbon

Does your software measure/track additional ESG metrics and risks outside of greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., water usage, deforestation, biodiversity, human rights/labor risk, animal welfare, etc.)?
Can you track the risk of deforestation as a result of agricultural production?
Do you offer supplier engagement efforts for metrics beyond carbon, including deforestation and water usage?
Can you identify ingredient hot spots for water usage, including scenario planning for alternative sourcing?
Can you provide comparative sustainability claims for metrics beyond carbon?

Learn about HowGood's impact metrics beyond carbon

#### Sustainability Claims

	Do you offer substantiation support to back product sustainability claims?
	Are you able to produce or validate comparative claims to demonstrate product differentiation?
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	What types of sustainability claims are you able to offer and/or validate?
	Do you have examples of the ROI that customers have experienced from using your claims?
	Do you offer a Sustainability Scorecard or collateral for use in B2B sales?
	Have you ever successfully defended your product claims with a global regulatory body?



HOWGOOD SUSTAINABILITY CLAIMS IN MAF CARREFOUR STORES IN THE UAE AT COP

Learn about sustainability claims in HowGood's platform

## Data Integrations, Interopability & Information Security

Can your platform integrate or share data seamlessly with your central corporate carbon accounting or ESG reporting platform, along with core business systems like ERPs and Data Visualization software?
Does the platform conform to PACT (Partnership for Carbon Transparency) standards to ensure seamless exchange of PCF data with other solutions upstream and downstream?
What third-party verification do you hold for Information Security Standards (e.g. SOC II, ISO 27001, SSO)?
Does your platform offer an API?
How is the data made available and accessible to non-users of the system (e.g., consultants, reporting teams, other departments)?
Can the data be transformed and embedded back into the native business landscape and tied to pre-existing business KPIs?
Does the solution support external partnerships (e.g., with farm data providers) to ensure on- farm investments are fully tracked and reflected in final reports?
Learn about HowGood's scalability, automation & information security
Data Quality & Harmonization
Data Quality & Haimonization
How does the platform harmonize, grade, and clean disparate PCF data submissions received from multiple suppliers and different solution providers?
Does the platform offer functionality for cleaning and aggregating data sets to ensure comparability across the portfolio?
Does the system provide a clear and transparent method for scoring the quality of primary supplier PCF data for each carbon lifecycle stage (e.g., agriculture, processing, transport)?
Is your data quality methodology or scoring mechanism verified by a third-party authority

(e.g., Carbon Trust)?

#### Risk Management & Supply Chain Resilience

	Supply Chain Resilience
	Can the platform provide granular, audit-ready data for identifying environmental and social hotspots?
	Does the solution calculate Scope 1, 2, 3, and SBTi FLAG emissions, including requirements for emerging guidance (like LSR), to pinpoint high-risk areas?
	How does the scenario analysis tool and supplier engagement facilitate effective mitigation strategies for both supply chain and reporting risks?
	What data security and audit standards (e.g., Carbon Trust verification, ISO 27001, SOC II) ensure disclosures are accurate and mitigate legal/reputational risk?
Lea	arn about risk management & supply chain resilience in HowGood's platform
•	Artificial Intelligence
	Llow is Al used to sutemate the complex process of mapping client product data (DOMs. EDD
	How is AI used to automate the complex process of mapping client product data (BOMs, ERP exports) to the emissions factor database, in a secure manner?

Learn about artificial intelligence in HowGood's platform

☐ Does the platform offer in-app Al-driven guidance or chatbots that draw from a curated

methodology and data source library?

## HowGood's Latis Platform Capabilities

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## HowGood's holistic tool is critical to improving the sustainability impact of our brands."

- TAKOUA DEBECHE, CHIEF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AT DANONE



HowGood provides food companies with the world's largest sustainability database designed specifically for the food industry. Its Latis software platform serves as an all-in-one solution for actionable strategy on reduction and abatement with tools for carbon accounting, product carbon footprinting, sustainability claims and reporting.

Through in-depth, ingredient-level insights on factors ranging from greenhouse gas emissions to animal welfare to labor risk, HowGood data powers strategic decision-making for the sourcing, manufacturing, merchandising, and marketing of sustainable products.

HowGood's software platform serves as an all-in-one solution for actionable strategy on reporting and reduction, with tools for product carbon footprinting, carbon accounting, supplier engagement, and carbon reduction.

#### Product Carbon Footprinting

#### Database:

90,000 on-farm emissions factors, right out-of-the-box, providing unrivaled granularity and accuracy from nearly 20 years of agricultural impact research. This database is the world's largest for food product sustainability.

#### **☑** Baseline Creation:

Automated, cradle-to-grave PCF baseline can be available with nothing more than back-of-pack ingredients. Al-driven data mapping accelerates this process by intelligently parsing and matching complex ERP and BOM data to HowGood's proprietary material database. The platform calculates GHG emissions across the entire product lifecycle, including packaging, and offers pre-validated supplier PCFs. We ingest and prioritize granular primary data (ingredient concentration, sourcing location, certifications, agricultural practices) while clearly disclosing the use and extent of proxies or global average data.

#### **☑** Standards:

Carbon footprinting methodology is 3rd party verified by the Carbon Trust from cradle to grave, in accordance with the GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard and ISO 14067. We are PACT Conformant, ensuring interoperability. Our approach aligns PCFs to Scope 3 reporting (Bottom-Up Carbon Accounting), supporting SBTi requirements, including FLAG and future LSR guidance on removals.

#### Data Sourcing:

LCA specialists and data scientists source emission factors from nearly a thousand accredited data sources. We integrate with external Corporate Carbon Footprint providers and offer data visualization, Al-powered abatement strategies, and competitive benchmarking against our database of 2.2 million products.



Indeed, the world is moving into product-level carbon footprints. On the market level, from a commercial perspective, companies are using this level of granular data to make business decisions."

- NAAMA AVNI-KADOSH, DIRECTOR OF PACT AT WBCSD

Scaling your Product Carbon Footprinting: Meeting Requirements of the Newest Food Industry "Mandate" with Ahold Delhaize & WBCSD

#### GHG Accounting

#### **☑** Full Scope Visibility:

A single dashboard for visualizing Scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions, with a focus on Scope 3 where the food industry's impact is greatest.

#### Bottom-Up Accounting:

Latis exclusively uses a bottom-up approach, rolling up verified product-level data (PCFs) to accurately quantify the corporate Scope 3 footprint, providing an audit-ready, reduction-focused baseline rather than less accurate spend-based estimates.

#### Reporting Frameworks:

Alignment to CDP, GRI, SEC, CSRD, SBTi, and other global reporting frameworks. Data aligns with the GHG Protocol Product Standard, Corporate Standard, Value Chain Standard, Land Sector and Removals Guidance, and SBTi Forest Land and Agriculture Guidance (FLAG).

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HowGood's database and support were instrumental in navigating the FLAG accounting requirements for our SBTi revalidation. Their data and team expertise gave us clarity and confidence throughout the process. We're grateful for the partnership and the support that helped us reach this important milestone."

- SALLA SULASUO, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR AT PAULIG GROUP



#### Audit-Ready:

Easily export GHG Protocol-compliant reports directly from the platform with accompanying methodology and substantiation. Data sources for unique crops and ingredients are available to view.



















#### Carbon Reduction & Abatement

#### Scenario Planning:

The interactive scenario planning tool allows for viewing the "in real time" impact of changing sourcing locations, ingredient swaps, supplier interventions, and other abatement levers. Results can be easily shared with relevant stakeholders.

#### Supplier Engagement:

HowGood streamlines the collection and calculation of supplier emissions, enabling collaborative reduction efforts focused where impact is greatest.

#### Key Drivers:

Latis instantly surfaces the suppliers, products, and ingredients generating the largest share of emissions for efficient prioritization.

#### Predictive Abatement:

Latis uses proprietary Al algorithms to generate "Abatement Recommendation Reports," predicting impacts on FLAG emissions and carbon removals based on scenario modeling.

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One of our biggest competitive advantages is how we're scoring on sustainability. That's our moment to shine. We're growing because of our demonstrated commitment and efforts on impact reduction, and our sustainability journey isn't complete without HowGood and the Latis platform."

- MONALISA PRASAD, VP OF SUSTAINABILITY AT CHARTWELLS HIGHER ED





HowGood has been a valuable partner for us in driving sustainable product innovation. Using Latis to assess the impact of our products in real time, speeds up product development and allows us to meet market demands for greater transparency."

- JUAN AGUIRIANO, HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY AT KERRY



#### Supplier Engagement

#### Integrated Supplier Engagement Portal:

An integrated, co-branded portal streamlines data collection, enabling two paths for suppliers at various levels: Mature suppliers can upload EFs, LCAs or PCFs, which HowGood then scores for quality level; Immature Suppliers can utilize HowGood's platform automated, custom PCF calculations, integrating on-farm practices and sourcing details.

#### Automated Data Validation:

To address the need for audit-ready data, the system automatically validates incoming primary data against HowGood's proprietary emissions factor database, flagging anomalies and ensuring submitted data is high-quality and verified.

#### PACT Conformance:

HowGood's platform is PACT Conformant, enabling full interoperability with both upstream and downstream supply chain partners.

#### Existing Supplier Data:

The size of HowGood's network enables customers to leverage pre-existing, verified supplier data, automatically boosting the accuracy of your baseline with pre-validated PCFs.

#### Supplier Value And Data Security:

HowGood strives to make supplier engagement beneficial to all parties involved; suppliers receive validated PCFs, benchmark reports, and abatement recommendations through their participation in supplier engagement efforts. Their data is protected with an NDA and HowGood's enterprise security standards.



Collaboration with suppliers is key to our decarbonization strategy, and better emissions data helps us focus where it matters most. HowGood's PACT-compliant carbon transparency enables us to use a shared standard with suppliers, which is critical for achieving our net-zero goals and fostering industry-wide alignment."

- GRANT SPRICK, VP OF CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT AT AHOLD DELHAIZE

#### Auditability

Assurance:

HowGood's team analyzes reputable agricultural data sources and interprets impact data in alignment with industry-recognized methodologies, such as the GHG Protocol.

Reporting:

Audit-ready reports can be instantly generated at the product-, portfolio-, and company-wide levels. Historical versions are automatically saved to ensure traceability.

Transparency:

View data sources for unique crops and ingredients directly in the platform and export full research methodologies.

Understanding a product's carbon footprint is an essential first step on any food company's decarbonisation journey. However, data quality and availability often pose a challenge.

HowGood's Latis platform facilitates this step, enabling like-for-like comparisons across the food industry and helping companies gain insight into their product emissions data to inform next steps and focus areas for reductions.

Achieving third-party certification of their Latis calculation methodology adds an extra layer of transparency for food and drink companies as their footprints are being calculated in line with international standards."

- TIPHAINE ARIES, SENIOR CONSULTANT AT THE CARBON TRUST



The Path to Net Zero: HowGood Accelerates Food Industry Decarbonization efforts with an Automated Footprinting Model certified by the Carbon Trust, a leading global footprinting expert

Read the press release 7

#### Impact Beyond Carbon

#### **☑** Holistic Assessment:

HowGood delivers outcome-based metrics and reporting beyond carbon accounting, including blue water usage, soil health, biodiversity, deforestation, land use, labor risk, and animal welfare.

#### Regulatory Support:

Metrics can inform strategy for compliance with regulations such as the EU Deforestation Law, Nature Restoration Law, and Canada's Modern Slavery Act.

#### Sustainability Claims:

Comparative claims and product footprinting can be generated for water usage, with full export-ready methodology.

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HowGood's platform has been a game-changer. It allows us to focus not just on carbon but on multiple metrics that matter to us, from human rights to biodiversity."

- KARIN JONSSON,
PRODUCT PORTFOLIO
SUSTAINABILITY
MANAGER AT
PAULIG GROUP





HowGood allows us to scale up our sustainability efforts at a fraction of the cost, and it's much faster. It's not just about reducing carbon, it's about making informed decisions that take into account water usage, labor practices, and more."

- BRIAN NASH, VP OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY AT INGREDION

Beyond Carbon: The Future of Holistic Product Footprint Automation with Ingredion and Paulig Group

Ingredion.

Watch the webinar 7

#### Sustainability Claims

#### Substantiation Support:

HowGood offers robust substantiation support for product sustainability claims. Our platform provides auditable, primary and secondary data for backing claims.

#### Regulatory Defense:

While we do not act as legal counsel, our data has been successfully used by global enterprise clients to substantiate and defend product claims in highly regulated markets, ensuring compliance with evolving standards like the EU Green Claims Directive. Our inherent transparency and data quality meet the scrutiny expected by global regulatory bodies.

#### Claim Generation:

We are able to produce comparative claims (e.g., "30% less carbon than the category average") using our database of over 2.2 million products for accurate competitive benchmarking.

#### **☑** B2B & ROI:

We provide a comprehensive
Sustainability Scorecard and B2B
collateral powered by HowGood's data,
enabling sales teams to quantify and
communicate product differentiation.
Customer ROI examples include
achieving premium placement and
increasing sales by showcasing claims.

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While our guests can make good food choices for the planet by simply eating at Chipotle, the radical transparency provided by Real Foodprint also holds us accountable to improve our practices and source more sustainably over time. It is the combination of transparency for our guests and Chipotle's commitment to higher standards that make Real Foodprint so impactful."

- CAITLIN LEIBERT, HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY AT CHIPOTLE

## Data Integrations, Interopability & Information Security

#### API & ERP Integration:

Latis provides a dedicated API for seamless data flow, alongside robust ingestion of standard business system exports (ERP, BOMs). Data outputs are designed to be embedded back into the native business landscape and tied directly to operational KPIs.

#### Interoperability Standards:

Full conformance to PACT standards for compliant PCF data exchange. Methodology is verified against GHG Protocol and ISO 14067.

#### External Data Partnerships:

HowGood supports the integration of granular, farm-level data collected through external partnerships (e.g., farm data providers), ensuring on-farm investments are fully reflected in PCFs.

#### Data Security:

HowGood is ISO 27001:2022 certified and AICPA SOC 2 Type II compliant. These attestations confirm a rigorous Information Security Management System (ISMS) governing the security, availability, and confidentiality of customer data. All customer and supply chain data is protected via encryption at rest and in transit (TLS/SSL). We utilize continuous 24/7 security monitoring, vulnerability scanning, and log management. We conduct regular internal and third-party penetration tests and comprehensive vendor risk management. These controls ensure that our handling of sensitive data meets the high security standards required for global operations.

Explore HowGood's Partnerships & Data Integrations **7** 

#### Data Quality & Harmonization

#### Uncertainty & Data Quality Scoring:

HowGood employs an ISO 14067-aligned system to automatically score the quality and uncertainty of data (both primary PCFs and secondary data) for each lifecycle stage (e.g., agriculture, processing, transport), providing granular transparency for auditability.

#### **■** Low Activity Data Handling:

HowGood uses Al-driven data mapping to ingest and intelligently parse complex customer data (e.g., ERP, BOM files), matching it to our proprietary material database. Often, this is done using nothing more than back-of-pack ingredient data. Primary data is automatically prioritized.

#### Harmonization & Cleaning:

The platform's proprietary data harmonization engine automatically validates PACT-aligned PCF files and primary data submissions against HowGood's 90,000+ internal factors. This process identifies and flags outliers, cleans disparate submission formats, and ensures that all supplier data is standardized and comparable across the entire portfolio.



HowGood is, without a doubt, hands down, the most comprehensive database when it comes to ingredients. They own that space."

- JESSICA SANSOM, SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR AT HUEL



#### Risk Management & Supply Chain Resilience

#### Granular Hotspot Identification:

HowGood provides granular, audit-ready data from our 90,000+ factor database to identify environmental and social hotspots across the entire product lifecycle (cradle-to-grave). This pinpoints high-risk areas—from water stress to deforestation—down to the ingredient and sourcing location.

#### Mitigation & Scenario Analysis:

Our scenario analysis tool facilitates effective mitigation by allowing users to model and compare ingredient swaps, sourcing changes, and on-farm practices in real-time. Al-powered abatement recommendations enable the creation of targeted mitigation strategies for both supply chain and reporting risks. Our supplier engagement portal streamlines primary data collection to continuously improve data quality in high-risk areas.

#### Audit & Security Standards:

The accuracy and defensibility of our disclosures—critical for mitigating legal and reputational risk—are ensured by: a)Methodology Verification: Carbon Trust verification of our PCF model, aligned to the GHG Protocol Product Standard and ISO 14067, b)Data Security: We are AICPA SOC 2 Type II compliant and ISO 27001:2022 certified, protecting sensitive supply chain data with encryption at rest and in transit.

### Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

#### Automated Data Mapping:

Our Al-driven engine parses diverse client datasets (ERP, BOMs) to map ingredients to our database of 90,000+ agricultural emission factors. This automates the "heavy lifting" of hotspotting, maintaining the integrity required for ISO 27001 and SOC II Type II compliance.

#### Predicative Abatement:

Latis uses proprietary algorithms to generate real-time "Abatement Recommendation Reports." Users can model ingredient swaps or sourcing shifts to predict impacts on FLAG emissions and carbon removals.

#### **Expert Guidance:**

Al chat bots integrated in-app help users answer complex questions, drawing from HowGood's curated library of over 600 data sources and proprietary methodology documentation.

#### ☑ Technical Note:

All Al processes are governed by our rigorous InfoSec framework, ensuring data encryption at rest and in transit, mimicking the data integrity standards of SOC II.

## Learn how HowGood can help you measure, report and reduce your carbon footprint

Get in touch