

Tourism Workshop – October 5th

Date & Time: October 5th, 14:00-16:30

Location: Crichton University Campus, Dumfries

Contact: Rachel Dunk at Crichton Carbon Centre (r.dunk@carboncentre.org) and Steve Gillespie at Glasgow University (Steven.Gillespie@glasgow.ac.uk)

Carbon Accounting in the Tourism Sector

Background

In Scotland, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a key component of achieving a 'greener' Scotland, while tourism has been identified as a core sector in delivering a 'wealthier' Scotland. Furthermore, the Scottish Government has publicly stated its ambition for Scotland to be Europe's most sustainable tourism destination.

Tourism is one of Scotland's largest business sectors, providing direct employment for 200,000 people and generating visitor spending of more than £4 billion a year. As such, it is an important element in the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Scotland, from major cities to rural areas, many of which depend on the industry for jobs and infrastructure.

There are a number of existing standards and schemes that are either specific to, or include, the tourism sector. Of these, the Scottish Government's preferred sustainable tourism scheme is the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS). Membership of the GTBS is, at present, a voluntary decision. However the Scottish Government have stated their aspiration that all quality assured businesses will have attained (at a minimum) entry level of the GTBS by 2015 (Scottish Executive, 2006). The GTBS assessment criterion includes consideration of energy, water efficiency, procurement, waste, and travel (in addition to other cultural, social and biodiversity aspects of sustainability). All of these elements should be included within a carbon footprint assessment that includes significant supply chain emissions in addition to direct and energy indirect emission sources.

Workshop Overview

This is the first workshop in a series of stakeholder events/consultations to explore and reach consensus on common measures to evaluate carbon across the tourism sector. As this is a complex multi-faceted issue, this first workshop will focus on a number of core issues and also provide an opportunity to identify topics for future focus.

This interactive event will feature short scene setting presentations followed by round table discussions of the key questions. We would welcome input prior to the event regarding the key questions (from workshop participants or those unable to attend) – please email your views to r.dunk@carboncentre.org or Steven.Gillespie@glasgow.ac.uk.

Agenda

- 13:30 Registration, refreshments & networking opportunity
- 14:00 Welcome & overview of workshop
- 14:10 Tourism and CO₂ - the global context



14:20 A whistle-stop tour of standards and methodologies applicable to the Tourism Sector

14:30 Break out groups – all addressing Key Question 1

Key Question 1: Sector boundaries – who should the tourism rule book cover?

A brief overview of the tourism ecosystem will be presented. The purpose of this session is to highlight the complexity of the tourism system and to stimulate discussion regarding which players/business types should be included (or excluded) from the tourism rule book. The outcomes of this session will be a proposal for the tourism sector boundary and will identify the key subsectors within the tourism sector that will be the focus of future events.

15:00 Report back on Key Question 1

15:15 Break out groups – addressing Key Questions 2-4 (refreshments will be available during this session)

Key Question 2: How should we account for visitor transport in the tourism sector?

Visitor transport is a significant Scope 3 emission source for the tourism sector – and as such should be included in a best practice carbon emissions assessment. However, visitor transport is very difficult to measure with any level of accuracy, and inclusion of this emission source may represent a barrier to participation if data rules are too severe. Conversely, the absence of a standard approach to estimating visitor transport emissions precludes comparability across the sector. This session will explore approaches that could be taken to resolve this issue, and identify any further data or research needs required to support each approach. For example, one solution could be to adopt a tiered methodology supported by a common set of assumptions, where low tier methods were supported by generic look-up tables for visitor transport emissions.

Key Question 3: What are the ‘significant’ scope 3 sources in accommodation businesses?

Key Question 4: What are the ‘significant’ scope 3 sources in visitor attraction businesses?

Key questions 3 and 4 address which scope 3 emission sources should be included in a carbon emissions assessment of an accommodation provider or visitor attraction. These sessions will consider whether there should be a defined set of emission sources that should be included, and/or a set of criterion for inclusion/exclusion. Other points for discussion could include appropriate business sub-categories (e.g. by size or other sub-type categories), allocation rules (e.g. where the business is also a family home, where multiple businesses are run from the same site, or allocation to different business functions), and appropriate intensity measures to enable comparability across the sector.

16:00 Report back on Key Questions 2-4

16:20 Wrap up and close

