

Energy Management in Tourism: development of a comprehensive Carbon Footprint methodology and toolset

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Summary

A practical and robust method for understanding carbon footprints is needed so that organisations can effectively target reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions in their supply chains. Tourism is a major economic sector in NW England, and contains many small businesses with limited resources for carrying out analysis. An appropriate methodology and toolset has to be employable by organisations of all sizes, from the small tourism provider requiring a simple, believable, user-friendly tool that provides straight forward output to larger organisations with the requirement and capacity for more detailed analysis. Existing methodologies lack the usability, and transparent validity that is required for widespread organisational use. This proposal is a proof of concept which will use an existing prototype footprinting model to show economic robustness and realism and validate statistical methods of presenting estimates of variability and confidence. A tool will be developed and demonstrated for the tourism sector. Once completed a larger research proposal will be written to fund parameterisation and software development to create a freestanding system for widespread release.