

Paper C3

Carbon calculator

Education and Learning Committee

Basic information

Contact name and email address	Alan Yates alan.yates@urc.org.uk
Action required	None; for information only.
Draft resolution(s)	None.

Summary of content

Subject and aim(s)	The development of a 'carbon calculator' to enable the Education and Learning Committee (E&LC) to track the carbon content of travelling associated with committee business.
Main points	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A key step to reducing the carbon footprint of the E&LC operation is to track the carbon content of all journeys.2. Understanding our carbon footprint will enable reductions to be targeted.3. A number of on-line carbon calculators exist but typically don't allow off-line use.4. An Excel-based calculator was developed that can be used off-line; it is more flexible and can incorporate a database to make it easier to use.
Previous relevant documents	Paper C2: Environmental statement for EL&C; Mission Council November, 2020.
Consultation has taken place with...	Secretary for Church and Society.

Summary of impact

Financial	Possibly, if carbon offsetting is used.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None at present.

Carbon calculator

Estimating the carbon content of E&LC journeys

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2020, The Education and Learning Committee adopted an Environmental Statement containing a Green Charter to enable the committee to support the United Reformed Church's goal to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by well before 2050.
- 1.2 A key element of the Environmental Statement is the E&LC commitment to making significant progress by 2025. To track the performance of the committee will require the E&LC carbon footprint to be estimated. A target will be set once the existing carbon footprint is estimated.

2. The Carbon calculator

- 2.1 Two key limitations were identified for the on-line carbon calculators that were reviewed. Firstly, they can only be used on-line, which limits their usefulness for the committee. Secondly, they did not provide estimates for the wide range of transport methods the committee can use. Therefore, an Excel-based system was developed that enables a very wide range of transport methods to be evaluated and allows a database of common journeys to be established, making the system quicker and easier to use.
- 2.2 Transport is not the only carbon contributor in the life of an Assembly committee, but this is the best element to focus on in the short term. Other contributors are addressed (but not evaluated numerically) in the Green Charter policies.
- 2.3 A copy of the Excel Carbon Calculator can be found in the Mission Council part of the URC main website for the November 2020 meeting. The instructions for use are contained in the 'Read Me' worksheet. Note that the calculator can be used for any journey (not just E&LC ones) and can even be used to determine the most carbon friendly form of transport to help plan a journey. Please contact the author if further help is needed.