The Carbon Footprint tool: what it does and how to start

A method and a tool to calculate the CO_2 emissions of home-delivered social services. The method follows the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and is meant to be transferable, modular and repeatable year after year. The tool was built so that a municipality or a service provider can update it without external experts.

What you need

A short collection form with general information about the service, the fleet and the activity data, and the characteristics of the journeys. The effort is mostly in collecting the data, so ask your own staff early. For electric vehicles the tool asks how the electricity is supplied, so that emissions can be read in two ways: location-based, with the average of the local grid, or market-based, with your own contract, for instance certified renewable electricity.

What you get

A carbon footprint for the baseline year, 2023 in Green LaMiS, and for each following year. Indicators in neutral terms, such as CO_2 per user, per vehicle or per kilometre, so that a service that grows is not mistaken for one that pollutes, and a service that shrinks is not mistaken for one that improved. And the possibility to test scenarios before investing: what happens if an electric vehicle joins the fleet, or if routes are reorganised.

How the pilots used it

Every pilot city started from a baseline and updated it every year. In Klis the team used the tool and the route suggestions to replan its daily rounds, and saw the emissions of the service fall by 21.7% between 2023 and 2025. The tool also helped the cities in a less obvious way: it gave the municipalities and the providers numbers they had never had, and a common language to talk about them.

How to start

Use the user manual and the first module of the Capacity Building Toolkit, then try the baseline with your own numbers. Everything is free to use and available on the project outputs page: https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/green-lamis/

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