

About the challenge owner

We are a group of academics concerned about our carbon footprint, kicked off our Low Carbon Travel Initiative at Eindhoven University of Technology. This is a first step in making TU/e work travel more sustainable.

Our efforts aim to:

- 1. Promote a critical attitude towards travel and reduce the number of trips.
- 2. Identify easy to reach destinations with low carbon modes within Europe.
- 3. Offer a travel planning procedure that integrates low carbon travel options.
- 4. Promote efficiency by e.g. sending smaller delegations to conferences.
- 5. Create administrative and financial support to overcome barriers to use low carbon travel options via e.g. compensation for increased travel time and cost.

We want students to work on aims 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Challenge description

Create a sustainable travel decision-making support tool which academics can use when planning their next work-related travel. Additionally, we would like the team to take concrete actions (with an action plan) to implement this tool at the TU/e.

We want the project group to work on creating a sustainable travel decision-making support tool that is specific to different project groups at the University. This includes:

- Design and development of calculator
- Integrate decision-making support for staff members using the tool
- Promoting and integrating use of calculators in different project settings
- Influencing university-wide vision and policy on low-carbon travel methods

Quite a number of carbon calculators for travel (<u>Flight carbon footprint</u> <u>calculator</u>, <u>Carbon offset calculator</u>, <u>For Good app</u>, <u>Ecopassenger</u>) already exist. These show your emission levels per travel. None of these are catered towards academia. Students can use these existing apps, websites and calculation tools to make a tool that supports academics in their travel decision making, taking into account other priorities of academics (e.g. time, budget, the possibility to travel together, how long the trip will be).

Input and involvement of challenge owner

We cannot meet on a weekly basis, but we can be involved regularly and if necessary through face-to-face meetings or via email/whatsapp. We can function as a starting point (resources, what has already been done), and later on as a group to bounce their ideas off or as a test group.

Our biggest obstacle is to make people understand that travelling in a low carbon way is actually not that big of a hassle as it looks with the right support. We would like a ready-to-use, 'simple' solution, which can count on the support of TU/e management and, ideally, organization-broad implementation.

Resources

Knowledge of the processes, procedures and policies at the university.

Additionally, contacts with facility management, human resources, real estate, communications, IMS, etc. Of course, we can also support the students with expertise in carbon calculations and some IT-skills.

What resources do you offer to students?

⊠Expertise; blogs and knowledge from <u>our website</u>.

□Materials; ...
□Workplace; ...

ØOther; our website as a communication channel +