EVALUATION OF CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATORS

Maria Guerra-Arias Company: Tata Teleservices Limited University of Cambridge

The following is an evaluation of different web-based carbon footprint calculators. The aim was to find a tool that could be used by TTL employees to calculate their domestic carbon footprint, with the aims of:

- raising employee awareness of personal carbon footprints
- allowing employees to donate to projects to offset their carbon footprint
- ideally, providing feedback for the company on the combined size of the carbon footprint of the workforce.

Below, several different available tools are analyzed in terms of positives/negatives.

Name of company: Carbonfund

Available at: http://www.carbonfund.org/Calculators#Home

Positives:

- Free to use
- Allows calculation of carbon emitted from home, car, flights, public transport and events.
- Offers choice of type of offsetting projects

Negatives:

- Only available on external website
- US-centred
- Only provides totals in terms of cost of offsetting, not in terms of tons of CO2 emitted
- Doesn't offer choice of specific offsetting projects.

Name of company: PE international

Available at: http://www.pe-

 $\underline{international.com/index.php?id=6520\&L=0\&gclid=CPGY8IS_nKoCFcwa6wodEkGnwQ}$

Positives:

- Customised for different countries
- Also available as iphone app
- Can calculate footprint from car, train, flights and living
- Provides breakdown of total footprint in terms of electricity, gas, oil, different modes of transport, etc.

Negatives:

- Only available on external website
- No direct link to offsetting projects.

Name of company: Carbon Footprint

Available at: http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

Positives:

- Can be incorporated for free on the company website
- Possibility of generating monthly reports on employees' combined footprint is being explored (note, this service will have a cost).

- Customised for different countries
- The most comprehensive calculator—includes home, flights, car, motorbike, bus and rail, and secondary footprint.
- Can choose directly from a range of offsetting projects

Negatives:

- Can't be incorporated on the intranet but we can have a link on the intranet to its location on the internet.
- None of the offsetting projects immediately offered seem to be located in India.

In light of this evaluation, the tool offered by Carbon Footprint has been chosen as the best option, given its comprehensive coverage of different carbon emissions and, its ability to be incorporated onto the company website, which is not a function of any other tool.