



The carbon footprint of academic travelling - assessing the sustainability of different ways of travelling to the EGU Assembly

S. Krause (1), W. Buytaert (2), T. Krueger (2)

(1) Centre for Sustainable Water Management, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster, UK (s.krause@lancaster.ac.uk) (2) Environmental Science Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

Over the last couple of years the popularity of academic traveling is strongly increasing. Several thousand scientists traveled to the EGU Assembly in Nice and later Vienna. As a result of increasing numbers of low cost airlines most scientists are flying from European destinations and overseas. In this study we investigate the implications of different types of traveling from the UK to Vienna. Therefore the environmental, economic and social impacts of traveling with a low cost airline, using a shared car or a train are quantified. Within a complex evaluation framework the characteristics of different travel types are assessed considering the ecological impact due to green house gas emissions as well as the economic costing of different travel options including also the effective use of time. Furthermore the social implications as communication and networking with co-travelers and the security standards of different possibilities of traveling are evaluated. The framework application finally leads to a multi-criterial impact matrix which combines the environmental, economical and social implications of the three investigated travel options and thus enables for a holistic assessment of academic traveling.