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Living Lab project summary – Best Practice on the Measurement of Scope 3 GHG Emissions

Description of the paper

This paper describes a volunteer project for SRS to research best practice in Scope 3 emissions carbon reporting in the UK higher education sector.

Research question

What can be identified as best practice in Scope 3 emissions carbon reporting by UK universities, with particular attention to staff and student commuting and supply chains?

Objectives

1. Review and report on the current UK context for reporting of Scope 3 emissions
2. Explain difficulties with Scope 3 Reporting faced by organisations
3. Provide best practice examples across Scope 3 areas and compare with University of Edinburgh practices
4. Set out recommendations for the University of Edinburgh

Findings and recommendations

Kai Wan identified best or good practice examples in transport and travel, data collection methods, waste, supply chains and responsible investment. In some cases, such as responsible investment, the University of Edinburgh could be seen as already reflecting good practice. Key recommendations were noted in terms of staff and student commuting and supply chains. Cranfield uses automatic data capture of pedestrian, cycle and vehicle traffic to inform their travel surveys, a method that could be taken up by Edinburgh. The University of Cambridge uses the Proc-HE tool to measure supply chain Scope 3 emissions, as provided by the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC); while data are based on averages, this method begins to capture the impact of supply chains on organisational emissions. Kai provides us with valuable starting points for further investigation in the area of Scope 3 emissions reporting.