

Design of community carbon footprint software **Carbon management / software design MSc** **dissertation**

Introduction

Climate Futures is a multidisciplinary climate and carbon consultancy with a strong background in carbon footprinting and community engagement.

It has been asked to tender to develop carbon footprint software for a Scottish community of 3500 people and its businesses.

The carbon measurement software is critical to the success of the community programme. It will allow the calculation of an accurate baseline and tracking against progress to help guide strategy and resources on high emission sources. It will also bring the subject to life for participants, by showing individual, average and total footprints in appealing graphics, and prompting carbon reduction actions.

Climate Futures is investigating whether development of this software would be suitable as an MSc project for one or more students in carbon management / software development.

What Climate Futures can offer

- Strong involvement in a hands-on project with increasing application in the real world
- Possible payment for development time

What Climate Futures needs

- Assistance to develop the software
- Dedicated student time and assured delivery
- Student(s) with interest in carbon footprinting, public communication and software modelling

What the client needs

- A stand alone, simple and practical software solution
- Designed with the needs of the community first and foremost
- Backed up by support from a credible, technically proficient and helpful consultancy
- A simple system eg online login ensures the footprint baseline is completed by as many people and businesses as possible
- And updated by participants to demonstrate progress

Characteristics of the carbon footprint software

General:

- practical
- Allows updates and refinements
- PC and Mac, web compatible

Includes:

- Energy
- Transport
- Food
- General consumption

Features:

- Allows tracking and updates over time
- Data can be cut and reported in different ways
- Allows comparisons against averages of selected groups and total
- Gives total figures
- Shows outliers
- brings numbers to life
- Produces reports and graphics
- Colourful and engaging
- Any individual, group of individuals or geographical area

Individuals:

- Encourages participation and comparisons, healthy competitiveness
- Updating regularly (quarterly?)
- Automatic prompt emails
- Encourages kids use

Businesses and organisations:

- caters for variations and different types
- calculates footprints
- useful for company reports

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