Für Mensch und Umwelt

Umwelt 📦 Bundesamt

Carbon Footprint and Climate Neutrality

General Approach and Possibilities of Integration into a multi-criteria Ecolabel

Dr. Johanna Wurbs German Environment Agency / Umweltbundesamt GEN Meeting October 2024

Background Studie for Integration of Carbon Footprint and Climate Neutrality into a multi-criteria Ecolabel

To be published in the beginnings of 2025.

• How to determine the carbon footprint? (standards, use cases, rules, data, communication)



- How to state carbon neutrality? (standards, use cases, rules, climate protection projects, communication)
- How to integrate into a multi-criteria ecolabel? (aims, conditions, communication, dos and don'ts)

→ Today we are only taking about the carbon footprint and possibilities of intergration into a type 1 ecolabel, not about carbon neutrality.

Motivation for the study.

First aim of the ecolabelled product is to have a lower environmental impact / carbon footprint than an average product.



Greenhouse Gase Emissions

- Avoid
- Reduce
- (Compensate)
- \rightarrow In may cases no detailed calculations are neccessary.

But expectations from consumers and procurers:

- To know the exact carbon footprint of (every) ecolabelled product.
- To quantify the environmental benefit of (every) ecolabelled product.

→ No sensitivity to the problems of methodology and data which are related to it. "Prefer bad data than no data."

Standards and data

Standards

- ISO 14067 carbon footprint of products
- Greenhouse Gas Protocoll for Products



- ISO 14026 for communication rules
- Product category rules, e.g. in Europe for Batterie Passport, Product Environmental Footprint or CBAM

<u>Data</u>

- From free or commercially available data bases
- Primary data
- Secondary data from scientific studies
- CO2-Calculator are helpful but quality often unknown
- \rightarrow All lot of detailled data and reference data are not available.

Use cases of carbon footprint calculation

A company wants to know the carbon footprint of its own products a optimise the products.

Supply chains of the company could be investigated, primary data could be made available, "big points" could be identified and changed.

• An ecolabel operator wants to conduct a background study for setting criteria.

Supply chains of all companies or production routs should be know. More data neccessary, probably less access to primary data. Criteria for big points hopefully could be identified.

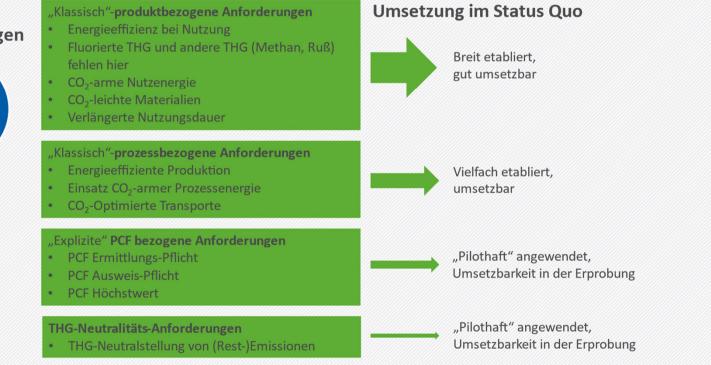
- A licence holder of an ecolabelled product should determine or communicate the carbon footprint of the product or fulfill a benchmark.
 Use case of comparative LCA and has to fulfill much more preconditions:
 - Product category rules need to exist.
 - The licence holder needs access to primary /good quality for hotspots.
 - For benchmarks a good knowledge of the market necessary.

Different Approaches for requirements related to the Product Carbon Footprint in the Blue Angel

Anforderungen zur Reduktion des PCF und deren derzeitige Umsetzung in den Vergabekriterien der Umweltzeichen des Blauen Engel (schematisch)

Mögliche " Anforderungen





Quelle: eigene Darstellung (Ökopol)

Discussion points with Environmental Label Jury regarding criteria for Canteens and Catering.



Calculation and communication of the Carbon Footprint of the Meals

- \rightarrow use of calculators for CO2e is necessary
- ightarrow the quality of the recommend calculators has to be approved
- \rightarrow only calculation of the yearly average CO2e-Emissions per meal
- \rightarrow no communication of Carbon Footprints of single meals

Compensation of CO2e-Emissions

- \rightarrow rejected because not considered as usefull criteria
- → general <u>requirements for the quality criteria of emission reduction</u> <u>credits</u> for the Blue Angel are definded

Umwelt 🎲 Bundesamt

Thank you for your attention!

Johanna Wurbs, Kristin Stechemesser

Section III 1.3 Ecodesign, Evironmental Labelling, Environmentally Friendly Procurement

Johanna.Wurbs@uba.de, Kristin.Stechemesser@uba.de