

News service

EcoTransIT World: easy online calculation of transport chain environment balance

For the first time, "EcoTransIT World" now also calculates freight transport emissions for worldwide routes

(Berlin, May 2010) Increasing numbers of companies plan the transport of their goods according to both economical AND ecological aspects. Low transport emissions are an increasingly significant sales argument. Furthermore, for financial reasons companies attach growing importance to calculating, given the demands of emissions trading and environment taxes and charges on the transport sector. And so DB has joined forces with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and six other partners to develop the emissions calculator EcoTransIT World. Customers can use it for exact calculation of the environmental impacts of their chosen transport chain; it also helps them decide whether to optimise the ecological aspects.

EcoTransIT World produces reliable environment balance worldwide

EcoTransIT World reliably calculates energy consumption together with CO₂ and pollution emissions on a worldwide scale for any freight transports by train, truck, airplane, ocean ship and inland-waterway vessels together with intermodal traffic. The user can enter any number of starting points, destinations and interim stops to visualise various transport combinations and compare their emission values. This makes it easier to decide which transport chain is not only the most economical but also the most ecological for his company. Up to now, the internet tool could only be used to calculate routes within Europe. Now for the first time, the latest version of the tool lets the user draw up his environment balance quickly and easily for routes all over the world. Like its predecessor, the EcoTransIT World tool is freely available on the internet and is based on a scientifically verified method and data.

EcoTransIT World offers many possibilities

Customers can check various environmental aspects of their previous transports not only on certain routes but also compare them with alternative routes. At the same time, they also have a basis for deciding whether to change the transport combination, based on real routes. The user can practically set off from any point in the world and the internet tool finds the next road, next siding, next port or airport, depending on what the user has specified. Shipping companies for example can enter their entire shipping timetables, including pre- and post-carriage segments. Airlines can visualise all their connections, including stopovers.

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Knowing and acting according to the eco-balance of the chosen transport chain

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the transport sector is responsible for around a quarter of CO₂ emissions worldwide, with an upward trend. Technical innovations alone will not be capable of coping with the expected increase. Effective reductions in carbon emissions require optimised production workflows and co-modal solutions. This means finding solutions that make deliberate use of the various strengths of the individual means of transport. EcoTransIT World provides information and transparency about the eco-balance of individual means of transport and transport combinations.

Example: transporting a container from Beijing to Hamburg

The customer can use EcoTransIT World to compare the transport chains, for example for transporting a standard container (TEU = twenty-foot equivalent unit) from Beijing to Hamburg:

- Air transport is the fastest version, but with very high carbon emissions (56.4 tonnes CO₂ incl. pre- and post-carriage by truck).
- A ship takes longer but has a much better climate balance with 2.5-3.5 tonnes CO₂ (depending on speed)
- A train has the lowest emissions with 1.9 tonnes CO₂ emissions, even with the same volume of pre- and post-carriage by truck as for air and ship transport.
- Results:
A sensible mixture of lead time, price and less emissions could consist of combined air and ship transport (31.2 tonnes CO₂) The DB subsidiary DB Schenker offers all variations.

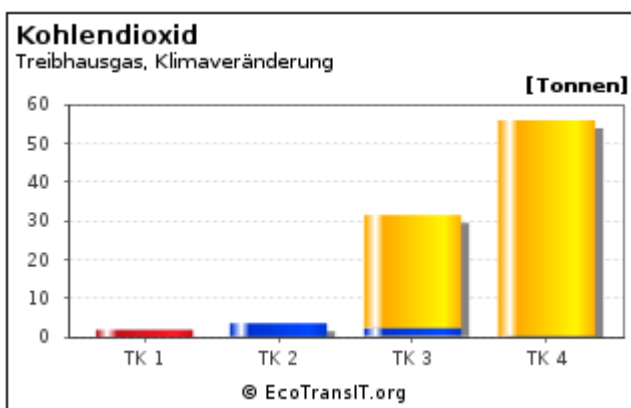
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■ Zug ■ LKW ■ Flugzeug
■ Binnenschiff ■ Seeschiff ■ Intermodaler Transfer

train truck airplane
 inland-waterway vessel ocean-going ship intermodal transfer



Carbon dioxide
Greenhouse gas
Climate change

Quick and easy to use

EcoTransIT World is easy to use while at the same time working on the basis of a reliable scientific method. EcoTransIT not only calculates the energy consumed during the transport of goods. The tool includes the whole energy chain, starting from generation of the energy via transport to the consumer through to construction of the necessary facilities and equipment. The calculations even include the energy consumed by the vehicle supplying the necessary fuel. An important aspect in rail travel is the composition of power mix in the grid of the corresponding country. The individual national power shares are regularly updated. The analysed routes are illustrated in EcoTransIT World using the Geographic Information System (GIS) and can even be visualised in Google Maps on request.

Pooled expert know-how

The emissions calculator was developed by a consortium consisting of DB Schenker, DB Environment Centre, the International Union of Railways (UIC) and six other European rail transport undertakings, thus safeguarding practical expertise. The two independent, internationally acclaimed research institutes ifeu Heidelberg and Öko-Institut were responsible for assuring the scientifically sound data and the calculating method. Over the last 25 years, these institutes have set the standards for calculating the environmental impacts of various means of transport. The method is supported by the

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European Environment Agency (EEA). The combination of practical and theoretical know-how makes the EcoTransIT World a currently unique instrument for calculating environmental impacts of the transport sector, giving users the opportunity to take their own initiative to make corresponding reductions.

One step ahead

EcoTransIT World addresses manufacturing companies, shippers, logistics service providers, forwarders and political decision-makers together with nongovernmental organisations. It gives them the possibility of knowing the environmental impacts of transport solutions and of making ecological improvements. Increasing numbers of shareholders, stakeholders, voters and customers are showing great interest in the environment friendliness of a company. EcoTransIT World makes the information available not only at low cost but also easily and conveniently.

There are three possibilities:

1. Calculating the eco-balance of individual routes:
free of charge at www.ecotransit.org
2. As shipper, logistics service provider and carrier – professional user:
calculating the eco-balance for a large number of routes according to the own specific fleet and transport service structure. Here calculations take place via an electronic interface with automatic preparation of the results, adapted to the corresponding Corporate Design
3. As member:
Status of a professional user and involvement in the on-going development of the online application

EcoTransIT World thus offers the user the possibility of being one step ahead of the competition.

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