

April 09

Green transport

Climate protection has become an important issue in the logistics sector. However, a company that aims at greening its fleet also needs to prove that it acts in a responsible and eco-friendly manner. map&guide professional 2009 is the first route planning software that reliably calculates carbon emissions on the basis of routes. Additionally, it allows logistics providers to provide carbon-neutral transports - important steps in the right direction.

Service providers offering eco-friendly services will have better chances of being successful in today's competitive transport sector. However, small and medium sized companies have not yet unlocked the business value of carbon-neutral transport.

In Germany, road traffic accounts for approx. 20% of carbon emissions. The issue of allocating external costs, such as carbon emissions, to the main culprits has already been addressed at European level. On March 11, 2009, the European Parliament in Strasbourg agreed to include environmental pollution and noise emission in the calculation of toll fees. In addition to infrastructure, EU governments could now charge for contributions to traffic jams or air pollution caused by particulate matter or nitrous gases. These additional costs might amount to up to 8.6 cent per kilometre according to Ulrich Stockmann, an SPD delegate.

map&guide users can now issue reliable quotes for green transports. The software calculates emissions according to the standard reference issued by the German Federal Environmental Agency and allows users to benefit from carbon offsetting according to the standards of the German government and the WWF. The software calculates not only carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, but also other pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbon or nitrous gases. The user enters the correct vehicle parameters needed to calculate precise values. This includes information on the weight, transport and emission class, and type of fuel. The emission values are listed in the route summary and in a separate tab of the itinerary. The pollutant emission report can also be printed as a proof added to the transport documents. Users are provided with a comprehensive overview of the emissions from their vehicles. This allows them to take appropriate measures in order to reduce emissions even further, if desired.

Benefits for logistics providers at a glance

- ▷ They get their first-ever comprehensive overview of vehicle emissions for every trip their drivers complete.
- ▷ They can sensitise employees and customers to the benefits of environmentally friendly transport.
- ▷ They can market themselves as "green" transport providers and differentiate themselves from the competition.
- ▷ They can accept orders from companies who have made eco-friendly transportation part of their strategy.
- ▷ They can appeal to customers interested in carbon-neutral transport with reliable CO₂ calculations and offsetting.
- ▷ map&guide offers a one-of-a-kind, standardised basis of calculation.

Carbon-neutral transport

Logistics companies who wish to sharpen their competitive edge with climate protection will have to provide "green" transport services. It won't be sufficient to replace an old vehicle or to occasionally avoid empty runs. Carbon offsetting is a major step in the right direction, in addition to driver education sensitising drivers to techniques of efficient driving, replacement of the old vehicle fleet and optimal trip planning.

A transport run becomes carbon-neutral if carbon emissions are offset by funding a properly certified project that aims at reducing future CO₂ emissions. The offset payment for a route from Berlin to Munich amounts to approx. EUR 6.60 for a truck with a total weight of 12 tons and a Euro class 4 producing 277 kg of CO₂ emissions. map&guide calculates the amount with a single click. PTV partners with established companies who provide access to certified climate-protection projects. The user then receives an official offset certificate. The climate certificate is sent by e-mail to the freight operator and can then be added to the transport documents. Offset payments only go toward supporting projects that meet the international WWF guidelines (Gold Standard of the World Wide Fund for Nature) and the Guide on Voluntary Compensation for Greenhouse Gases of the Federal Environment Agency issued in October 2008.

Solid basis for a new standard

The so-called Handbook for Emission Factors for Road Transport (HBEFA version 2.1) by INFRAS AG in Bern, Switzerland, is used as the data source. The Federal Environment Agencies of Germany, Austria and Switzerland commissioned INFRAS to draft this handbook.

It is important that the calculation is based on standards and provides correct values in order to be able to compare the companies' carbon footprints. The type of street or road is another decisive factor: for example, the amount of carbon emissions is lower on motorways than within cities. PTV has allocated

the correct HBEFA value to each route section of the network. The data has been included in the map&guide software, so precise emission values can be calculated for each route.

If logistics providers want to offer carbon-neutral transports, it is essential to use an independent software system to calculate and neutralise carbon emissions. This allows them to objectively compare the results and issue reliable quotes. The new map&guide version 2009 provides a similar basis for the evaluation of quotes in transport logistics.

For over 15 years, map&guide has been the industry standard for distance and transport cost calculation in the transport sector. The HBEFA handbook is used as the guideline for the calculation of emissions. This means that the combination of software and HBEFA provides the first standard method to determine route-based emissions.

New map&guide professional 2009 features

- ▷ Emissions calculation, Environmental zone routing
- ▷ Editable truck routing, e.g. for heavy cargo transport
- ▷ Transport data, such as DocStops, truck wash bays, acceptance points for Routex/UTA cards
- ▷ Intelligent search for parking areas
- ▷ Individual toll or other surcharges
- ▷ DVV's directory of transport companies as add-on module
- ▷ Passenger car toll in France

Images



mg_Lkw.jpg: Opting for eco-friendly travelling? map&guide 2009 gives the answer to this question.



programm.jpg: map&guide 2009 precisely calculates the emissions per route.

For more information go to

- ▶ <http://www.mapandguide.de/produkte/mapguide-software/routenplanung/mg-professional/>