

Study in Flanders on the "operational and infrastructural emissions of inland navigation"

Framework

In Flanders, a 3E (Ecological - Economic - Energy Efficient) inland navigation covenant with accompanying 3E inland navigation action plan was drawn up within the context of the Flanders Inland Navigation Network (FISN). Objectives that were formulated included the need for inland navigation to continue to profile itself as the most sustainable mode of transport by 2020 and significantly reducing the emissions of particulates, CO and NOx by inland vessels.

To implement the 3E inland navigation covenant, the Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV has organised a study to be carried out by the Flemish University of Brussels.

Study

Specifically, the study consists of 5 sections:

1. Literature study
2. Calculation of operational emissions
3. Calculation of infrastructural emissions
4. Comparison with existing carbon or environmental footprint tools
5. Decision and recommendations

The first section focuses on gathering and evaluating academic knowledge and key figures with respect to inland navigation emissions, the collection of data of the current and expected inland vessel fleet and the infrastructure related to inland navigation. In addition, gaps are identified and filled.

The second section is mainly concerned with the calculation of operational emissions. Infrastructure also generates operational emissions, for example at locks. In this phase the methodology is also included.

The third section addresses the calculation of the infrastructural emissions. This includes the emissions of construction, maintenance and demolition of both the transport infrastructure and means of transport.

The fourth section further examines the comparison with carbon or environmental footprint tools.

The scale of the study will mainly be Flanders. The final result is expected in spring of 2012.
