Kentucky Academy of Science 2017 Abstract Audrey Alexander

**Title**: Techniques in Carbon Footprinting: Achieving a Carbon Neutral Conference

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**Abstract**: Large-scale conferences output vast quantities of carbon emissions in a short amount of time, particularly when considering all elements associated with a conference, such as attendee travel, program printing, and venue heating or cooling. The Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) was used as a case study to determine whether a carbon calculator and its interpreted results could be used to reduce the carbon footprints of large conferences proactively. Data related to potential carbon emissions for the ASSW were collected or predicated based on previous meetings and known venue operations then input into the Clean Air, Cool Planet Campus Carbon Calculator. Data collected revealed the use of a carbon calculator can provide the information necessary for conference organizers to take steps to reduce a conference’s carbon footprint through decisions made during the conference planning process. Specifically, with areas in need of mitigation clearly identified through the use of a carbon calculator, an action plan to reduce a conference’s carbon emissions can be developed. Taking measures to reduce the emission of carbon from conferences, offers conference organizers an opportunity to bring attention to the value of assessing carbon footprints, as well as bring awareness to individuals and corporations on the subject of climate change. Additionally, lowering the ASSW carbon footprint is one way planners have committed to help create a positive change for the environment and the people of the Arctic.