

OPERATIONAL CARBON EMISSION AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF
GREEN TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION AT REST AND SERVICE AREA

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% in the year 2030. With increasing urbanization and living standards of people in Malaysia, there is certainty a substantial increase in human activities especially in mobility via networks of highway. Rest and Service Area (RSA) is one of the important facilities in highway network that operates 24 hours and utilizes significant amount of energy from its daily activities. Therefore, substantial amount of carbon is emitted from the RSA due to electricity usage, water consumption, solid waste and wastewater, as well as fuel consumption from staff commuting and transportation of goods. The aim of this study is to set a baseline target for energy reduction of RSA. In achieving this, the sources of GHG emissions were identified and measured in terms of carbon dioxide equivalency (t CO₂-e) in order to quantify the amount of GHG emitted from its sources. Next, the setting of reduction target were evaluated based on carbon and cost impact of suggested counter-measure. The collected data and questionnaire survey was analysed using Microsoft Excel software. From the overall analysis, it was found that average amount of CO₂-e emissions from electricity consumption contribute about 89% of carbon release for each selected RSA. Therefore, in order to overcome the substantial amount of carbon, LED, solar-powered LED on street light and motion sensor were proposed. Overhead Bridge Restaurant Ayer Keroh which labelled as RSA 2 was chosen as a case study in order to estimate the cost of investment in 20-year period of time prediction. For technology in retrofitting street light, it has shown that solar-powered LED produces longer payback period with 8.89 years compared to LED which is 1.23 years. However, solar-powered LED reduce 51% more carbon emission compared to LED technology. Unlike RSA building, using LED and motion sensor technology shows a shorter payback period with an average of 1.71 - 2.36 years. Although the installation cost for motion sensor is higher than LED technology, the reduction of carbon emissions from motion sensor was found to be 14.28% more than that of LED technology. As conclusion, this study projected that the combination between solar-powered LED for street light and LED or motion sensor technology for RSA building will reduce carbon emissions by about 40% from its baseline year in just 10 years after implementation. Therefore, this study has optimized to set a reduction target of 40% from its baseline by the year 2030.

ABSTRAK

Malaysia telah komited untuk mengurangkan pelepasan gas rumah hijau (GHG) sebanyak 45% pada tahun 2030. Dengan peningkatan urbanisasi dan taraf hidup rakyat di Malaysia, terdapat kepastian peningkatan besar dalam aktiviti manusia terutamanya dalam pergerakan melalui rangkaian lebuhraya. Kawasan Rehat dan Perkhidmatan (RSA) merupakan salah satu kemudahan penting dalam rangkaian lebuhraya yang beroperasi 24 jam dan menggunakan sejumlah besar tenaga dari kegiatan hariannya. Oleh itu, sejumlah besar karbon dipancarkan dari RSA disebabkan oleh penggunaan elektrik, penggunaan air, sisa pepejal dan air kumbahan, serta penggunaan bahan bakar dari pengangkutan dan pengangkutan barang. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menetapkan sasaran asas pengurangan tenaga RSA. Dalam mencapai ini, sumber pelepasan GHG telah dikenal pasti dan diukur dari segi kesamaan karbon dioksida ($t\ CO_2-e$) untuk mengira jumlah GHG yang dipancarkan dari sumbernya. Seterusnya, penetapan sasaran pengurangan telah dinilai berdasarkan nilai karbon dan kesan kos cadangan pengubahsuaian. Data yang dikumpulkan dan tinjauan soal selidik dianalisis menggunakan perisian Microsoft Excel. Daripada analisis keseluruhan, didapati bahawa jumlah purata pelepasan CO_2-e daripada penggunaan elektrik menyumbang kira-kira 89% pelepasan karbon untuk setiap RSA terpilih. Oleh itu, untuk mengatasi sejumlah besar karbon, teknologi LED, lampu jalan LED berkuasa solar dan sensor pergerakan dicadangkan. Restoran Atas Jambatan Ayer Keroh yang dilabelkan sebagai RSA 2 dipilih sebagai kajian kes untuk menganggarkan kos pelaburan dalam ramalan masa 20 tahun. Bagi teknologi dalam cahaya jalan pengubahsuaian, ia telah menunjukkan bahawa lampu jalan LED berkuasa solar menghasilkan tempoh bayaran balik yang lebih lama dengan 8.89 tahun berbanding lampu LED iaitu 1.23 tahun. Walau bagaimanapun, lampu jalan LED berkuasa solar mengurangkan pelepasan karbon sebanyak 51% berbanding dengan lampu LED. Tidak seperti bangunan RSA, penggunaan lampu LED dan sensor pergerakan menunjukkan tempoh bayaran balik yang lebih pendek dengan purata 1.71 - 2.36 tahun. Walaupun kos pemasangan untuk sensor pergerakan lebih tinggi daripada teknologi lampu LED, pengurangan pelepasan karbon dari sensor gerakan didapati 14.28% lebih daripada teknologi LED. Sebagai kesimpulan, kajian ini memperlihatkan bahawa gabungan antara LED berkuasa solar untuk lampu jalan dan LED atau pergerakan sensor untuk bangunan RSA akan mengurangkan pelepasan karbon sebanyak 40% dari tahun asasnya hanya dalam tempoh 10 tahun selepas pelaksanaan. Oleh itu, kajian ini mengoptimumkan untuk menetapkan sasaran pengurangan sebanyak 40% daripada garis dasarnya menjelang tahun 2030.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GHG	-	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
CO ₂	-	Carbon Dioxide Emission
LED	-	Light Emitting Diode
COP	-	Conference of the Parties
PV	-	Photovoltaic
UTM	-	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
DBST	-	Double Bituminous Surface Treatment
JKR	-	Malaysian Public Works Department
MHA	-	Malaysia Highway Authority
RSA	-	Rest and Service Area
ROI	-	Return of Investment
BaU	-	Business as Usual
HVAC	-	Heat Ventilation and Air Conditioning

LIST OF SYMBOLS

P_{OT}	-	Power Output
S_i	-	rate of solar intensity
P_p	-	Payback Period
AI	-	Additional Investment
Y_{TRM}	-	Yearly Total Energy Savings
L_{ES}	-	Lifetime Energy Savings
L_{TMS}	-	Lifetime Total Maintenance Cost
L_{CP}	-	The Life Cycle Period
E_t		Electric Tariff
TO		Total operation
$Y_{T_{kWh}}$		Yearly Total Energy Savings
$AT_{kWh/d}$		Total Power consumed per day (kWh) after retrofit
$BT_{kWh/d}$		Total Power consumed per day (kWh) before retrofit
P_s		Power saving per day
$T_{kWh/d}$		Total Power consumed per day
PL		Power Lighting
EF		Emission Factor

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Roads are one of the most common forms of public infrastructure in the world, which require continuous investments and improvements to remain serviceable (Mao *et al.*, 2017). In Malaysia, road network system can be divided into three categories, namely state road (61,100 km), federal road (17,500 km) and expressway (1,700 km) (Azhar, 2014). State roads generally comprise of the primary roads providing intra-state travel between the district administrative centres while federal roads are all roads declared under the Federal Roads Ordinance (1959) and the major interurban roads joining the state capitals and roads leading to points of entry to and exit from the country (JKR, 2014).

On the other hand, an expressway is a high-speed road with partial access and extra facilities like access ramps and lane dividers (Wang *et al.*, 2018). According to Malaysian Highway Authority's (MHA) annual report, the expressway network in Malaysia is considered as the best expressway network in Southeast Asia and also in Asia after Japan and China (LLM, 2016). The expressway will link many major cities and towns in western Peninsular Malaysia which acts as the main highway network of the west coast of the peninsular (PLUS, 2018).

Latest, MHA has set a worldwide standard with their best amenities and high standards for safety and comfort of highway users. One of the amenities is Rest and Service Area (RSA) or in Malaysian term Rehat and Rawat (R&R) (Izzul Ramli *et al.*, 2017). Usually, RSA is located at a certain distance alongside highways in order to provide an extra fantastic ride to the visitor (The Star, 2014; Illinois, 2016). According to Wang *et al.* (2018), RSA is an expressway facility, which is established to meet vehicle safety operation requirements and basic physiological and psychological needs

of passengers during long time, closed driving on the expressway (Wang *et al.*, 2018). Besides that, it also will assist in reducing the users fatigue and hence keeping off accidents from occurring (Rozana *et al.*, 2013).

This is a necessary facility in highway that provides safety and comfort element for users. For the relaxation and protection purpose, RSAs are commonly placed every 80 to 100 kilometres (Ainee, 2012). RSAs generally run 24 hours per day and use energy for their lighting, cooling, and additionally the restaurants' activities (Rozana *et al.*, 2013). Thus, the operations at RSA will generate a large quantity of carbon footprint from waste, energy consumption and fuel consumption from the users' automobile.

On the other hand, previous report shows that the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission has accelerated rapidly over the previous few decades (Saeed Balubaid *et al.*, 2015). According to Nor Sharliza *et al.* (2010), almost 30 billion tonnes of CO₂ enters the ecosystem as a result of human activities every year and RSA building is one of the contributors for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. When many developed nations have effectively decreased the GHG emission, Malaysia continues to enlarge its emission level. They projected that without any mitigation measures, Malaysia's CO₂ emission in 2020 will be amounting to 285.73 million tonnes; a 68.86 % expansion in contrast to year 2000 (Nor Sharliza *et al.*, 2010).

Similarly, Malaysia has an agreement to decrease its GHG emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 45% by year 2030 relative to the emissions intensity of GDP in year 2005. This consists of 35% on an unconditional basis and a similar 10% is situation upon receipt of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building from the developed nations (ASEAN Social Forestry Network, 2015). In order to achieve this target, energy conservation and environmental protection will be necessary for the equipment of service area (Wang *et al.*, 2018).

The reduction of power use in RSA building can be made via a proper design with suitable condition of ventilation system, day lighting and green landscape which can provide beautification of the view and also supply hues for buildings. Wang *et al.*

(2018) also revealed evidence that the operation and management of service area is the key to offering potential value which may increase carbon sink and decrease carbon emission. Therefore, it is a good opportunity to explore and study about the carbon emissions and energy conversation at RSAs which can enable the decision-making process for local government and concessionaire on selecting more climate friendly technologies.

1.2 Problem Statement

RSA can be categorised as a commercial area where highways users rest and relax in between travelling long distance (Paul *et al.*, 2017). The usefulness and amenity expectations of RSA by the public have considerably grown over the past decade. In term of operation, an RSA normally operates 24 hours and utilizes energy for its lighting, cooling, and also restaurant activities (Rozana *et al.*, 2013). Since the operation of RSA will be 24 hours per day, there will be a huge quantity of GHG released on every day basis. Every day, there are massive amount of electricity used and wasted every day at RSA. However, the users' awareness of electricity saving is debatable such as in the case where the fan in the common dining area operates almost 24 hours a day even when there is no visitor at the areas.

Noranai and Azman (2017) studied about the breakdown of electricity consumption in building and concluded that the major contribution to electrical energy is air conditioning with 75% followed by electricity for lighting and other equipment with 25%. Another study carried out in Malaysia also concluded that the utilization of full Heat Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at RSA will cause enlargement in electricity consumption and the CO₂ emission (Ainee, 2012). The study additionally highlighted two major reasons that lead to power wastage which are the use of spotlight that was not environmentally friendly at the parking vicinity and the operation of fan.

Moreover, in United States reported that about 35 to 40% of total energy is consumed in buildings and approximately 80 to 90% of the energy in buildings is

utilized during the operational phase of a building's life-cycle (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2017). With the high amount of energy used and wasted, the electricity consumption in commercial building is expected to grow from 60% to 90% between year 2005 to 2050 (Ürge-Vorsatz *et al.*, 2012) as a result of increasing GHG emissions. In order to minimize the greenhouse effect caused by carbon emission at RSA, green technology is one of the effective solutions that should be introduced to the highway developers (Saeed Balubaid *et al.*, 2015).

Dong and Frangopol noted that equipment retrofitting such as LED lighting, solar photovoltaic systems, water-efficient toilets and motion sensor is also helpful in decreasing the amount of energy used and enhancing energy overall performance (Dong and Frangopol, 2011). Acheampong (2014) also mentioned that the consumption level could be substantially reduced for the same level of lighting that would be provided if less energy wastage occurs from the use of inefficient lighting technologies, lack of adequate controls, failure to make better use of natural daylight and wide variations in recommended lighting levels.

However, previous research is found that most of the studies which have been conducted are focusing on the carbon footprints assessment on construction building and operation and maintenance of building such as study from Airaksinen and Matilainen (2011) and Lim *et al.* (2017). There was lack of study from Ainee (2012) that associated with the carbon footprints with regards to the RSA especially in Malaysia which usually the operation of RSA is 24 hours/day. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the amount of carbon footprint since it has not been quantify and recorded substantially.

For example, the detail of cost and benefit after retrofitting the lighting technology system in terms of return on investment and carbon reduction. This detailed information is very important in order to make a decision in choosing the right technology for better management in reduction of carbon besides avoiding from losing huge sum of money. For that reason this study has aim to analyse the carbon emissions and set a baseline year with reduction target goal for RSA at Malaysia.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to set a baseline target for energy reduction of Rest and Service Area (RSA) at Malaysian Highway. In achieving this aim, several scenario analyses were carried out. The specific objectives of the scenario analysis are as follows:

- i. To identify and establishes the inventory of GHG emission sources through primary data collection.
- ii. To calculate the operational carbon footprint in terms of metric tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂-e) based on establish inventory GHG emission sources.
- iii. To set a baseline year based on GHG emission trends and to come up with specific counter – measures.
- iv. To evaluate carbon and cost impact based on selected counter-measure scenarios in order to archieve the reduction target.

1.4 Scopes of study

The following are designated scopes of study to support objectives of the study:

- i. The carbon footprint was measured in terms of carbon dioxide equivalency (CO₂-e).
- ii. The research focused on the operational of Rest and Service Area located alongside PLUS Highway which are under Malaysian Highway Authority. The vehicle passing by or stop at RSA are exclude from this study as stated in guideline GHG Protocol.
- iii. The Rest and Service Area being assessed were Ayer Keroh (Northbound), Overhead Bridge Restaurant (OBR) Ayer Keroh and Pagoh (Northbound)

which the designs and application are almost same with other location RSA in Malaysian Highway.

- iv. The assessment of carbon footprint was based on year 2013 until 2017 data.
- v. The emissions of greenhouse gases generated by the RSA was calculated using carbon footprint as the environmental indicator to measure the global warming and climate change which continue to increase every year.
- vi. This research used the standard method and guidance from GHG Protocol of World Resource Institute (WRI) and ISO 14064 Standard.

1.5 Significance of the study

RSAs have a lot of potential to use alternative energy in the facility operations and reduce the overall carbon footprint. In the U.S., they used solar energy (direct and passive), wind energy and geothermal energy in order to reduce GHG emissions and save financial resources in the long term. Therefore, the data from this study will present the carbon emission for the operation of RSA and hopefully it will be useful for future research in order to promote a green building technology and attempt into the practice of sustainable living by cutting down the energy use from fossil fuel.

Besides that, the study will determine the baseline year which is a very important step before setting the carbon reduction target goal. Usually in a normal practice, baseline year is chosen as the highest emission year within a 5-year time period. Thus, the assessment was from year 2013 until 2017 in order to set a baseline year and a reduction goal in GHG emission. The carbon reduction target will help MHA to achieve the federal GHG reduction goal which is 45% carbon intensity reduction by year 2030 and change the highway facilities to green facilities (ASEAN Social Forestry Network, 2015).

Other than that, CO₂ has been recognized in GHG as the main cause that leads the world into climate change phenomena. According to Sustainable Energy

Development Authority Malaysia (SEDA), buildings represent the biggest opportunities for carbon reduction in mitigating climate change, which is responsible for about 80-90% of the carbon emissions during their operations (SEDA, 2017). Realizing the impacts of CO₂ towards national and global climate change scenario, this study suggested the feasible counter-measures and provided the estimated cost investment and return on investment. The feasible counter-measures were compared with the carbon reduction potential and return on investment of that technology.

In the end, the finding of this study optimistically would be very useful for local governments to enable the decision-making process on selecting climate friendly technologies, reduce resources consumption whilst sustaining national financial growth and decreasing the project cost due to proper project management and with the development in green technology. The contribution from the communities in the highway development such as concession companies, consultants, contractors, RSA's employee and any associated government will give consciousness about the carbon footprint that they produced every day especially to the highway users.

1.6 Layout of the Thesis

In general, this thesis is divided and arranged into five chapters in accordance with the overall work progress. The arrangement of the chapters is as follows:

1.6.1 Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter discusses about the introduction and background of the study. The chapter includes the problem statements, research questions, research aim, research objectives, research scopes and also the significance of the research. This chapter is more about discussing the importance in doing the research.

1.6.2 Chapter 2 – Literature Review

This chapter explains on the theory related to the research being conducted and it is based on researches that have been done by other researchers and scholar. The information such as the definitions of carbon footprint, scope of carbon emission, derivation of carbon footprint calculations, strategies being implemented associated with carbon footprint and the barriers towards the implementation of carbon footprint strategy are also explained in this chapter.

1.6.3 Chapter 3 – Research Methodology

This chapter presents the details of the methodology including research design and procedure, research objectives, research framework, research area, sampling method, research methods and analysis methods that were used to achieve the objectives of the study. The study was conducted at the RSAs at PLUS Highway in Johor and Melaka Region which are Ayer Keroh Northbound, Overhead Bridge Restaurant Ayer Keroh Northbound/Southbound and Pagoh Northbound. The preparation of the questionnaire survey is also being specified in this chapter. Moreover, this chapter also explains on suitable techniques used to analyse the data.

1.6.4 Chapter 4 – Result and Discussion

This chapter explains on the methods used in this research and for the analysis. These also include how the data were collected such as data on vehicle distance travelled, level of CO₂ and initial investment cost. The data gained from the survey were analysed to fulfil the objectives of the proposed study. At this stage, Microsoft Excel software was used as a tool to analyse the collected data. The data are described in the form of graph, pie chart and table to facilitate understanding of this case study. Reviews from PLUS Expressway, journal and other related sources were also carried out in target to achieve the objectives of the study. The analysis provides both descriptive statistics and exploratory details representing the information.

1.6.5 Chapter 5 – Conclusion and Recommendation

This chapter is the last chapter in report writing of the research where the final output is expressed and summarized. All these four objectives are clearly presented in this chapter. The conclusions will be explained based on the objectives of the study. The recommendations for future research are also proposed in this chapter.

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