

TIMEC Documentation

Quick-Start Guide

Version 1.0

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No AI was used in the production of this document.

TIMeC – QUICK START MANUAL

TOOL PURPOSES

The Implications Model for eCooking (TIMeC) is designed to enable users explore the impacts of transitioning from traditional cooking methods (e.g. charcoal or firewood) to cleaner alternatives. Designed with an intuitive interactive interface, the modeller can quickly change key input values & observe live updates to their output metrics.

Calculations are based on two phases – the modellers best guess about the current cooking scenario, and their proposed new scenario.

The tool may be useful in understanding the following (and more):

- End user cost of cooking for varied fuel combinations, as well as cost sources.
- Estimates for emissions for two phases – both environmental and health impacts.
- Understanding the significance of cost subsidies on the end user.
- Estimating the investment into infrastructure required to enable the phase 2 adoption.

The tool is designed to be user-friendly, catering to policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and any others interested in clean cooking. It aims to lower the barrier to entry for understanding the significance of clean cooking.

GETTING STARTED

OPENING THE TOOL

- The tool requires a version of Microsoft Excel with macros enabled. Make sure to enable macros when prompted.
- *Front end user manual:* https://mecs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/002A_Front-End-User-Manual-v4.pdf
- Download the tool from the official site:
- <https://mecs.org.uk/tools/the-implications-model-for-ecooking-timec/>
- The tool is populated with a default set of values to enable a quick start.

UNDERSTANDING THE STRUCTURE

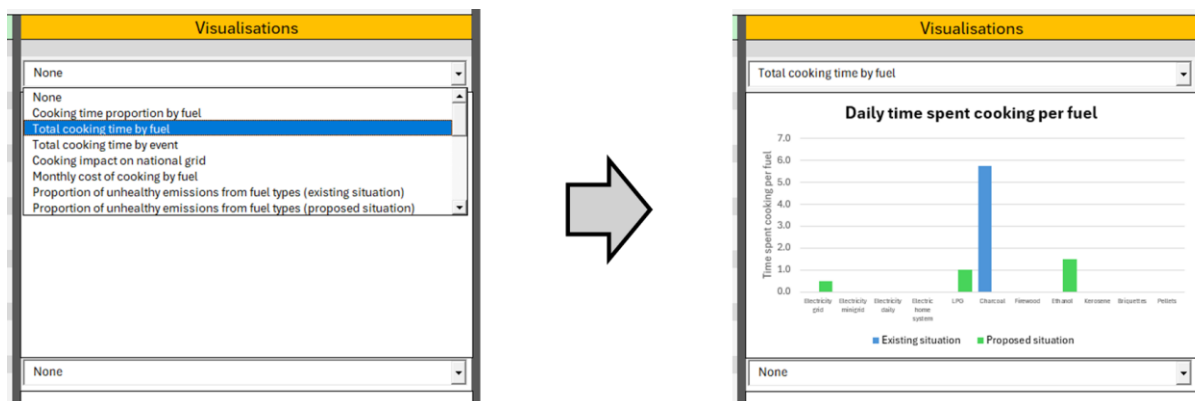
The interface is built from two main segments:

The key inputs dashboard, or the “**Big picture page**”. This page contains the most important entry variables for each segment, and links to the detailed input sheets. An additional set of detailed (optional) inputs are available for each key segment, providing the option for more control and an understanding of the parameters at play. By default, visualisations are only shown on the key inputs dashboard, and it is recommended that the user spends most of their time on this main sheet.

The screenshot shows the TIMeC tool interface with four main tabs: 'Adjustment factor', 'Existing situation', 'Proposed situation', and 'Visualisations'. The 'Existing situation' tab is active, showing input parameters for 'Scale parameters', 'Average people per cooking group', 'Typical cooking method', and 'Scale of operation'. The 'Proposed situation' tab is empty. The 'Visualisations' tab is also empty, showing a 'None' dropdown menu. A 'Hide detail' button is visible in the 'Existing situation' tab. A text box at the bottom of the 'Existing situation' tab provides instructions: 'Within sheet: Scale parameters. Toggle between the number of people affected and number of groups, add children, set inputs to urban / rural (which can be considered as "Case 1 & Case 2"). Set timeframes for implementation and output metrics.'

SELECTING VISUALISATIONS

Output charts can be selected from the dropdown menu on the righthand side of the of the key inputs dashboard.



These visualisations update in real time as the inputs are adjusted. The graphics can be copied, resized, and cut onto the detailed sheets as per the user desires in order to observe the live updates whilst interacting with the detailed data.

RESETTING TO DEFAULTS

Entry values can be reset for each key segment on the key inputs dashboard, and each detailed page can be fully reset to defaults by pressing the “Reset to default” buttons available.

ENTERING INPUTS

Adjustable fields are typically highlighted in either yellow, blue, or green. Generally yellow indicates a general input parameter affecting both the existing and proposed scenarios, blue indicates the value only affects the existing scenario, and green indicates the value only affects the proposed scenario. Locked cells (containing formulas) are shown in light grey, and cells which are deselected based on the user methodology selections are shown empty & dark grey.

Locked	Edit value	Existing	Proposed	Deselected
Firewood -	Medium length	Charcoal Firewood	Electricity grid Electricity grid	☐ for first for more

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE USE

We suggest starting using the default values, and making adjustments focussed on your area of interest. Line up your most important visualisations with the inputs whose impact you are interested in, and hide any key segments which you don't think you need to reduce confusion & complexity. Experiment freely with different inputs and question your assumptions. When something surprises you, take a look through the detailed parameter entry sheets to see where the differences are built up from. You may want to have multiple copies of the tool, each set up to represent a different country or situation.