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**TITLE: THE ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE LEVEL AND EMBODIED POLLUTION: A METHODOLOGICAL NOTE**

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**ABSTRACT:**

The study of the relationship between household expenditures and environmental pressures has become a question of major importance, since household consumption causes directly and indirectly the greatest demand of natural resources and the majority of environmental impacts. From the 1970's, several authors have analysed total energy and/or atmospheric emissions associated to household consumption applying input-output analysis. The aim of this paper is to discuss a specific methodological problem that different authors have dealt with in different ways, which could affect the outcomes. Households are non-homogeneous units; they have different number of members and/or with different ages. This fact raises a problem of comparison when the purpose is to order households according their relative "economic position" using as indicator their expenditure level. In this paper we describe the different alternatives applied by previous studies and we discuss some strengths and weakness of each methodological option. We apply all the methods to analyse the relationship between Spanish household expenditures and nine atmospheric emissions in 2000. Finally, we compare the results obtained.