**Estimate your Carbon “Footprint”**

Greenhouse gas emissions arise from human activities in many different ways. Burning of fossil fuels is the main one; others include industrial processes (smelting, cement, petrochemical), agriculture and habitat destruction.

Emissions arising from an individual’s actions are mainly made up of fossil fuels burned directly (fuel for cars and for household heating), indirectly (eg in using public transport and flying) and buying of goods, including food, that had greenhouse gases emitted during their production and transport.

**How much greenhouse gas do you produce, or in other words, what is your carbon footprint?**

*“A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by an individual, event, organization, service, place or product, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent. “(Wikipedia)*

**Carbon footprint calculators**

You can estimate your carbon footprint from many programs that are available online such as:-

**The UN** has a simple one aimed at encouraging offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. Link:-

[United Nations online platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions (CERs) (climateneutralnow.org)](https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/footprintcalc)

**The WorldWide Fund (WWF) for Nature** has one with clear graphics and comparisons to average emissions. <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

**The World Land Trust (WLT**) is an international conservation charity that protects the world’s most biologically significant and threatened habitats acre by acre. WLT was one of the first organisations in the world to focus specifically on the conservation of threatened habitats through land purchase

[Individual - World Land Trust](https://www.worldlandtrust.org/carbon-calculator/individual/)

***Some of the most interesting calculators are from individuals who have set up their own sites:-***

<https://carbon-calculator.climatehero.me/> is operated by the Swedish company **Climate Hero AB**, founded in 2017 by spouses Anna and Robert Sabelstrom for the Swedish market and is now expanding internationally. This is one of the best.

<https://carbonindependent.org/> has been set up by a medical doctor /statistician and who has no commercial interests. There are also various energy related articles on the website, including one critical of “offsetting” since only reducing emissions directly is judged effective.

These “calculators” also give tips as to how to reduce your carbon footprint. Many also encourage “offsetting”, or making a payment in mitigation of your emissions. Reducing your own footprint should take precedence over offsetting.

**Achieving Net Zero for countries**

A rather different model, and a countrywide view on emissions reduction is available from the UK **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).** This enables you to explore the ways the UK can achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. <https://my2050.beis.gov.uk/>