

Air today,



Air flights are the fastest growing source of UK carbon emissions, leading to climate change.

It's not just tropical islands which are at risk from deepening climate chaos. Floods, hurricanes, droughts and water shortages, forest fires, mass extinction, sea level rise and the spread of tropical diseases will threaten us all over the coming decades. And, as always, the poorest and most vulnerable will suffer the most.

A growing number of people are choosing not to fly, because of its devastating environmental and social impact. They want their lifestyles to be part of the solution to climate change, not part of the problem.

There are alternatives:

- travelling by rail, coach or ferry is less polluting than by air.
- to be really, green, take more of your holidays in this country - there are loads of beautiful places to visit here at home.

gone tomorrow

FLYING COSTS THE EARTH

Please sign the pledge - www.flightpledge.org.uk



*We can all act in our lives,
to create social change and climate justice.*



Treesponsibility

The need for action on climate change is urgent. Atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide are surging, and satellite data shows that the Greenland ice sheet is disintegrating far faster than predicted. Droughts are leading to epic human misery in parts of Africa and huge losses of agricultural production elsewhere. We are witnessing terrible hurricane disasters like New Orleans. It is time to get real.

At this moment in history, we can't leave it to governments or corporations to take the lead, because they are tied into a political system based on continual economic growth and unsustainable consumption. Our profligate use of energy has already committed the planet to 2°C warming. If "business as usual" development continues, warming will pass the 3°C threshold, leading to truly scary "positive feedbacks" like the dieback of tropical rainforests.

When governments fail, responsible citizens must act. It is not too late to sort out our fossil fuel addiction and prevent runaway climate change. We can start to create an alternative future by making a shift to a low carbon culture. So let's do it. Today.

Get Informed:

The earth's climate is a hugely complex system, involving factors ranging from fluctuations in the sun's energy outputs to long-term cycles of ice ages and interglacials. But there is no longer any serious scientific dispute that human activity is having an unprecedented impact, which will lead to a period of unusually rapid warming.

If you are struggling to make sense of all this we can recommend the following resources:

Kate Evans' cartoon book "Funny Weather" is packed with facts, but funny and moving too (www.MyriadEditions.com. £6.99). Buy this book. Buy it for family and friends (and why not ask your public library to order one too?)

Useful website:

Climate Outreach and Information Network
<http://www.coinnet.org.uk>.

Take Responsibility

If you emit more than 2.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year you do not have a one-planet lifestyle (see calculations on opposite page). Aim to keep emissions from your household energy use and transport below one and a half tonnes per head per year, leaving one tonne to cover food and basic material needs. The two quickest ways to cut emissions are signing the no flight pledge (see back page) and switching to a reputable green electricity supplier. The companies we recommend are: info@ecotricity.co.uk 01453756222 and enquiries@good-energy.co.uk 0845456 1640

A growing number of people are discovering that consumerism is not the same as a high standard of living. A low impact lifestyle can be healthier and happier, but it does take some thought and effort. A good approach is to set up an "ecoteam" to work together on cutting emissions. Resource packs are available from: www.globalactionplan.org.uk

Get Active

Rethinking our lifestyles is just a part of it - there are many other ways to bring about transformative change. It can be empowering to join with others at events like the camp for climate action (www.climatecamp.org.uk, www.risingtide.org.uk) or you may prefer to concentrate your energies in your local neighbourhood. We recommend "Do it Yourself - A Handbook for Changing Our World" May 2007, Pluto Press, (www.trapese.org) and "The Choice of Futures Game" downloadable from the Treeresponsibility website, below.

Please photocopy and distribute this leaflet, or download an electronic copy for email distribution:- www.treesponsibility.com

HOW MUCH CARBON DIOXIDE DO YOU EMIT IN A YEAR?

Grab a calculator, a sheet of paper and a pencil. And probably, an eraser.

AT HOME

Check your fuel bills, then choose from these options:

GAS Look for the units on all your bills, and add them together.

EITHER KWh x 0.19

OR cubic metres x 1.77

OR Therms x 5.5 = kg CO₂

COAL Kgs of coal x 2.4 = kg CO₂

OIL litres of heating oil x 3 = kg CO₂

BOTTLED GAS Kgs of butane x 1.74

OR Kgs of propane x 1.95 = litres of gas

THEN litres of bottled gas x 1.5 = kg CO₂

ELECTRICITY - nothing! if you use a green supplier - see details opposite

OTHERWISE annual KWh x 0.5 = kg CO₂

A key meter will tell you a total figure for numbers of KWhs used. Take one reading, then another a week later. Average weekly readings through the year, for accuracy.

WOOD kgs burnt x 1.03 = kg CO₂, but then, you can divide this by half, because the trees will grow back in the next 25 years. Hopefully.

DIVIDE YOUR TOTAL by the number of adults in the household. **The average UK citizen scores 2800kg.** How did you do?

TRAVEL

This is a big one, but there're plenty of ways to change it.

BY CAR Get your annual mileage by comparing your MOT certificates. If it has an: under 1.4 litre engine x 0.28
under 2.1 litre engine x 0.36
over 2.1 litre engine x 0.43 = kg CO₂
OR litres of petrol/diesel x 2.5 = kg CO₂
DIVIDE YOUR TOTAL by the number of adults using the car. Recycled biodiesel scores nil.

Miles travelled on **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**:

by **RAIL** x 0.1 = kg CO₂

by **CITY BUS** or **SUBWAY** x 0.17 = kg CO₂

by **LONG DISTANCE BUS** x 0.08 = kg CO₂

Miles travelled by **FERRY** x 0.75

Days at sea on **CRUISE SHIP** x 230 = kg CO₂

The average UK citizen emits 1600kg from land travel. Do you?

FLYING

Human beings probably aren't meant to fly. A return trip to:

Western Europe = 700 kg CO₂

East Coast USA = 4249 kg CO₂

West Coast USA = 5700 kg CO₂

East Asia = 6400 kg CO₂ and

Australia = 11000 kg CO₂, which is more

than most people's total annual emissions!

A one-way flight to New York is worse than driving a car for a year. Ooops.

SHOPPING

Add on some more CO₂ to compensate for your place in the consumer economy:

"I own a car" + 555 kg CO₂

THINGS: "I buy second-hand wherever possible" + 600 kg CO₂

OR "I buy new things when I need them" + 2000 kg CO₂

OR "I love shopping" + 3000 kg CO₂

FOOD "I eat meat" + 1200 kg CO₂

AND EITHER "I grow all my own fruit and veg" + 0 kg CO₂

OR "I eat organic UK fruit and veg" + 400 kg CO₂

OR "I eat non-organic fruit and veg" + 800 kg CO₂

The average UK shopper consumes 4000kg of CO₂. Can you beat that?

Add up your totals, and what have you got?
Average UK annual emissions = 10.371kg

You want to aim for 2500kg of CO₂ a year. Yikes. And that's still *twice* what we'll be allowed in 2030, if there are 8.2 billion people by then. Double yikes. This is a radical lifestyle change. We need root and branch reform to be able to meet it. Still, doing the sums will give you an idea of which areas of your life are most energy hungry, and help you to see how to change them.

Set yourself realistic targets. Tackle some of the big figures, like flights and commuting. Low-carbon living will help you to see how we need to change our society to save the world.

This calculator is amalgamated from www.resurgence.org/carboncalculator, which you can complete online, and from coinet.org/projects/challenge/measure.