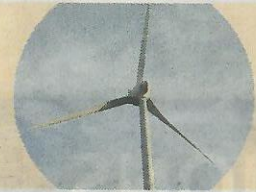


OPINION



Climate Action

Submitted by
Harborough
Climate Action

Monitor your carbon footprint as we all strive for net zero

In this second column from Harborough Climate Action, we want to help you understand how much greenhouse gas emissions you and your household are generating.

The emissions are a mix of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other gases which trap heat in the atmosphere and warm the planet.

The simplest way to understand your emissions is to measure your carbon footprint.

This is the measure of an individual's damaging impact on the climate, broken down into key categories.



There are many calculators on the web that will enable you to do this, but a quick and simple one to try is from The Worldwide Fund for Nature

(see <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk>).

A typical Carbon Footprint Wheel for a UK resident may look like this, with the total

The chart shows the basic breakdown of emissions. For more details, scan the QR code

footprint being in the order of 13 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Compare this to the global average of around 5 tonnes*. If we want to meet the UK Government's target of getting to net zero by 2050, we all need to start by significantly reducing our own carbon footprint by 2030.

Net zero is achieved when the greenhouse gases we emit into the atmosphere are balanced by those we remove from the atmosphere.

Reducing your emissions significantly sounds like a tough ask, but guided by our

tips – and keeping in mind our Carbon Footprint Wheel – every little can help. Together we can do it!

Each month, we will be giving a few tips to get you moving along your path to net zero. This month our tips are:

1. Use a Carbon Footprint Calculator to measure your household's current carbon footprint
2. Calculate your footprint again to include all the changes you hope to make by 2030
3. Encourage friends and family to measure their carbon footprints and compare your results

Harborough Climate Action is part of Sustainable Harborough Community. For more information about both groups, and about the ideas in this column, go to our website <https://www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/hca>

*Using data from Small World Consulting/Pawprint