

OPINION



Climate Action

Submitted by
Harborough
Climate Action

How you can cut carbon footprint

There are huge concerns about the impact of the climate crisis. Harborough Climate Action is helping us all to tackle this crisis together and reduce our harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The Carbon Footprint Wheel right illustrates where the greenhouse gas emissions from a typical UK household are generated. Understanding where our emissions come from can help us identify where we can make changes in our lives which will help us to reduce these emissions:

According to Pawprint (www.pawprint.eco), who have provided the data behind this Wheel, the 'average' person in the UK is responsible for producing around 13 tonnes of

greenhouse gas emissions each year from all of their consumption.

Transport accounts for around a quarter of this, of which flying makes up a significant proportion.

Flying abroad from the UK in 2019 accounted for around half a tonne of these emissions for every person in the UK.

As an example, a return flight to Europe emits around a quarter of a tonne per person, a return to New York is around 1 tonne and a long-haul return trip to Australia emits over 3 tonnes!

The airlines and the aero industry are working hard to cut these emissions, but it will be many years before flying is a zero carbon option for transport.



Here are our top tips to help you reduce your damaging impact on the planet:

Consider the alternatives to flying before you book your holiday or business trip.

The Carbon Footprint Wheel

We need to move to a culture where flying abroad is seen as the exception rather than the rule.

Try holidaying in the UK, travelling by car, train or even bike.

Many European locations are now reachable by comfortable high-speed trains – generating about a fifth of the emissions of flying.

Avoiding Long Haul or Transatlantic flying can reduce your impact by more than 10-fold, compared to flying to Europe.

If you do really need to fly, make sure that you purchase enough carbon credits (see below) to offset the emissions

Carbon Credits enable you to offset your unavoidable climate impact by funding pro-

jects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through projects, such as planting trees or building carbon free energy systems. Most airlines offer these as part of the process of buying tickets, but you can buy them through other providers. Make sure that any carbon credits you buy are "Gold Standard", as this will confirm that any carbon reductions are certified, genuine, independently verified and traceable.

We'd like to hear your thoughts on flying and reducing emissions – email us via: hca@SustainableHarboroughCommunity.co.uk

Harborough Climate Action is a subgroup of Sustainable Harborough Community. Visit www.SustainableHarboroughCommunity.co.uk/hca