

Climate Change and Carbon FootPrint

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Climate change is a significant and lasting change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods ranging from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in average

weather conditions, or in the distribution of weather around the average conditions. Climate Change is caused by factors such as biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics, and volcanic eruptions. Certain human activities have also been identified as significant causes of recent climate change, often referred to as "global warming".

Growth in the world's population and increasing consumption is expected to lead to a three-fold rise in energy demand during the next century, which is thought will lead to a 2-4° centigrade increase in average global temperature.



Scientific compromise states that carbon emissions must be reduced by 80% by 2050 (against a baseline of 1990

levels) to stabilize our climate and prevent extraordinary negative impacts on the economy and our climate.

By reducing our carbon footprint, we can protect our earth for future.

A carbon footprint is "the total sets of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organization, event, product or person."

In simply we can say, when you drive a car, the engine burns fuel which creates a certain amount of CO₂, depending on its fuel consumption and the driving distance. When you heat your house with oil, gas, coal or electricity, then you also generate CO₂. When you buy food and goods, the production of the food and goods also emitted some quantities of CO₂.

Veggie burger	1.0 kg
1kg of Hard Cheese	12.0 kg
A Bottle of wine	1.0 kg
Imported bottle of wine	1.5 kg
1 kg of Oranges	1.0 kg
1 kg of imported strawberries	7.2 kg
6 eggs	0.180 kg
1kg of frozen fish	6.5 kg
1kg of cod	2.7 kg
1kg of frozen shrimp	10.1 kg

There are several ways to combat climate change by reducing carbon footprint.

First, you can recycle, use less electricity and use public transportation. In addition to these lifestyle changes, many companies now allow you to buy credits that neutralize your carbon usage. In fact, this movement has been popular with some commercial companies.

A carbon credit is a dollar amount that will go toward offsetting emissions.

Carbon offsets are credits for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions made at another location, such as forestry projects, solar or wind farms which create renewable energy and reduce the need for fossil-fuel powered energy.

Carbon offsets are quantified and sold in metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Buying one tonne of carbon offsets means there will be one less tonne of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than there would otherwise have been. This

could be, for example, a project to swap coal-fired power stations with solar panels or hydro power. Individuals and companies buy the credits through environmental improvement agencies, who dedicate them to carbon-offsetting projects.

As examples of Carbon neutral companies / products,

- Duo software - Asia's first carbonneutral® IT company
- Eswaran tea export - The first carbonneutral® tea company
- HNB annual report - Asia's first carbonneutral annual report
- Hidramani - First carbonneutral® apparel Factory in asia
- Cinnamon grand's nuga gama - Asia's first carbonneutral venue
- Sri Lanka - Host first carbon neutral economic summit
- MAS Intimates Thurulie Factory Carbon Neutral Bra Manufacturer



Carbon offsetting is often the fastest way to achieve the deepest reductions within businesses and it also often delivers added benefits at the project site, such as employment opportunities, community development programmes and training and education.

Many companies sell carbon credits online, but it is important to ensure you buy credits from reputable organizations in order to ensure that you are reducing your carbon footprint.

The Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard, Climate Action Registry (CAR), Green-e Climate and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) validate high quality offsets. Each of these standards has specific requirements to ensure the emissions reductions they generate are real, measurable, permanent and additional. i.e. they would not have happened without carbon finance.

On its own, carbon offsetting does not provide an answer to global warming, but it does have a large part to play in the overall approach to carbon management. 'Internal' reductions take time to kick in and even targets of 20% reductions are stretching to growing businesses. Carbon offsetting brings the possibility of 100% reductions achieved cost-effectively and immediately. At the same time, the emission reduction projects supported by the money paid for offsetting helps communities globally to get on to a low carbon path.

calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO₂e) and it currently constitutes the bulk of emissions trading.

This form of permit trading is a common method countries utilize in order to meet their obligations specified by the Kyoto Protocol; namely the reduction of carbon emissions in an attempt to reduce (mitigate) future climate change.

Carbon-neutral is making or resulting in no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, especially as a result of carbon offsetting.

Carbon emissions trading is a form of emissions trading that specifically targets carbon dioxide (calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO₂e) and it currently constitutes the bulk of emissions trading.

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