

Carbon footprints...



CFF Carbon Calculator

...understanding the difference between business and personal

A carbon footprint is a measure of the total carbon emissions created by a person, business, event or organisation. Carbon emissions are widely acknowledged to be a measure of total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, which include warming gases such as nitrous oxide, methane and CFCs, as well as carbon dioxide.

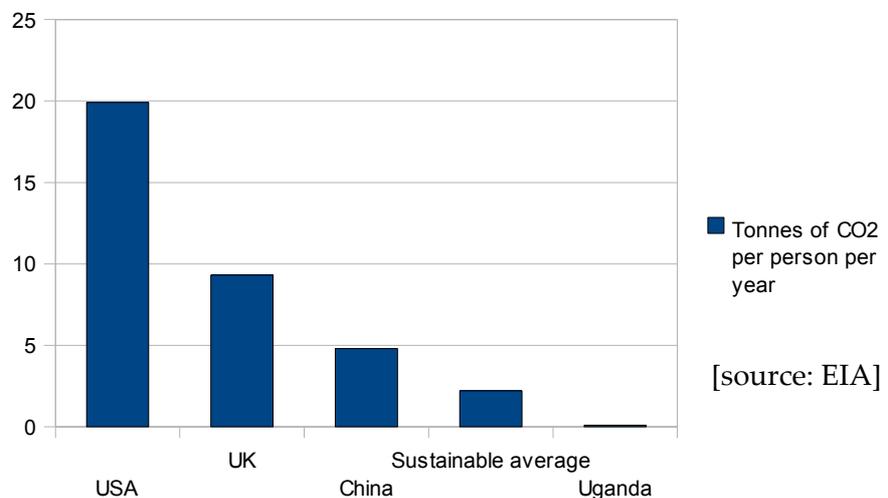
Personal carbon footprint

Almost every action we do creates carbon emissions, from the food we eat to travel by car, the clothes we wear and heating our homes. By looking at the various sources of carbon emissions from our lives it's possible to work out our total annual carbon footprint. The best and most accurate tool available in the UK to do this is the [Resurgence Carbon Calculator](#).



Below is a list of the average carbon footprint per person, from various countries:

If the maximum carbon emissions from the world are divided equally between the whole current world population, the sustainable world average carbon footprint is around **2.2t/person/year**.



Therefore countries like the UK need to cut their per capita carbon footprints by around 80%, and countries like the USA by 90%. These cuts should happen as fast as possible and no later than 2050. This is why the UK government has signed up to reducing national emissions by 80% by 2050, and that's why everyone should be taking part.

It's worth noting that food makes up around 30% of an individuals' carbon footprint, so eating low carbon food will be critical in making those personal cuts.

Business carbon footprint

In the same way that people emit carbon from their actions, so do businesses. These can be worked out in a similar way to personal carbon footprints and an annual carbon footprint be attributed. The [CFF Carbon Calculator](#) is designed to do this for organic farmers and growers.

The crucial difference between people and businesses however is that businesses do not accrue carbon emissions. The principle stands that all businesses should pass on their entire carbon emissions to all their customers, attached to their various goods and/or services.

Whilst every business should be aiming to minimise its carbon footprint and educate its customers, the ultimate responsibility is with every person to demand low carbon products and services from businesses to minimise their own carbon footprint.

Low carbon food

The reason why food matters so much is that, along with energy in the home and personal travel, it's one of the three major sources of carbon emissions in people's lives. According to Food and Climate Research Network's report [Cooking up a storm](#), the food chain is responsible, on average, for 31% of an individual's carbon footprint.

Food carbon footprints can be reduced in different ways:

- **Food type:** meat and dairy products are high in carbon because of they are high in energy, whereas vegetables, fruits and cereals tend to be quite low in carbon.
- **Food waste:** a huge amount of food is wasted at various stages of the food chain, from field to kitchen
- **Food miles:** transport of food can have a significant effect on the carbon footprint of food, but in particular air freight is extremely high in carbon
- **Production system:** different food production systems will have a range of carbon footprints. The CFF Carbon Calculator allows producers to accurately measure their carbon footprint and use it as a measure to reduce their carbon footprint.

Farmers and growers can actively take measures to reduce their carbon footprint and use this information to inform their customers. The market for low carbon food is significant and growing substantially every year.