



Climate Action Plan

*We are going zero
...are you?*



Zero Carbon Harrogate

We are a voluntary organisation bringing together individuals, community groups, local businesses, and politicians, to work collaboratively in order to transition the Harrogate District to a low carbon economy as quickly as possible.

Our aim is to significantly reduce carbon emissions by 2030, by engaging, advising and collaborating with the Harrogate community, thereby helping to improve the quality of life for Harrogate District residents.

www.zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk

ELECTRICITY

- 'Switch off' when not in use
- Switch to a renewable 'green' supply tariff
- Buy the most efficient appliances possible
- Install smart systems to control timing
- Install solar panels

HEATING

- Turn down the thermostat (18-20°C)
- Use 'zone' heating
- Maximise building insulation
- Install a heat pump where suitable
- Switch to electric - self generated where possible
- Adopt renewable fuels as available - where no other option

Climate Action Plan

If we are to have the best chance of preventing a climate crisis we must keep global warming below 1.5°C according to the best scientific advice.

To do that we must quickly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from everyday activities like driving, heating our homes and buying goods and services to net zero.

Carbon dioxide is the most common of GHG, which comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas but there are others. Methane for example is a very powerful GHG, which comes from livestock like cattle and sheep in large quantities.

We have it in our power to drastically reduce the carbon emissions that we are personally responsible for. We will undoubtedly need help from technology and incentives from the government, if we are to reach net zero carbon emissions in the Harrogate District but we must all make a start ourselves, with our own personal climate action plans, which will take us forward step by step.

Here are some actions you can take, immediately and in the slightly longer term, as individuals, employees, landlords and business owners.

TRAVEL

- Walk & cycle whenever possible
- Use public transport where available
- Car share or join a car club
- Switch to an EV vehicle as quickly as practical - where needed
- Fly less or not at all

CONSUMPTION

- Adopt a low meat, vegetarian or vegan diet
- Buy fewer goods – reuse/repair/ recycle
- Waste less and make products last longer
- Buy from sustainable and local suppliers
- Invest sustainably with banking and pension

OFFSETTING

- Plant trees and protect existing woodland and peatland
- Support nature preservation programmes
- Contribute financially to approved offsetting schemes
- Buy goods and services which include an offset surcharge in the price

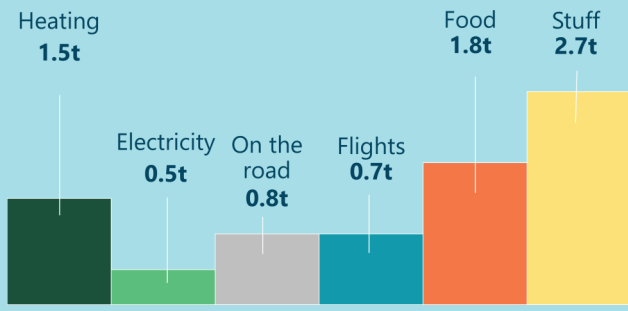
BUSINESS PLUS

- Offer home working option
- Set up employee public transport incentives
- Install wind turbines where practical
- Create a local energy hub
- Use sustainable packaging
- Look into 'green' web hosting options
- Use the most eco shipping option

How big is your carbon footprint?

The average for a person in the Harrogate District is **8.0 tonnes**.

How does yours compare?



It might surprise you

Your carbon footprint is a measure of how much carbon you emit by the way you live and hence your contribution to global warming.

Many people are aware that driving their cars, flying and maybe even heating their homes creates carbon emissions but many are not aware of the carbon costs associated with buying clothes or using the internet.

The bars above show the main categories for the carbon emissions that arise from the way we live our lives, and the average annual amount per person in tonnes of CO₂e.

CO₂e represents the mix of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that are causing our climate to heat up.

Home Energy (Heating & electricity)

Heating is the big one, particularly boilers that use fossil fuels like oil and gas, making up around 24% of emissions.

Travel (On the road and flights)

A person travelling from Leeds to London, as a passenger in a plane is responsible for **83kg** CO₂e, compared with **56kg** travelling alone in a family car and **13kg** when travelling by train.

Food

Meat and dairy are the highest but watch for anything that travels a long way or is out of season. Eating a 170g beef steak would add **11kg** to your carbon footprint compared to **0.9kg** for the same portion of chicken breast.

Consumption (Stuff)

All the goods and services we buy have a carbon cost (production, storage, transport, etc), making them the largest part of our carbon footprint.

For example using a mobile phone for one hour a day over a year emits **1.3 tonnes** of CO₂e.

A year in your life

Get a quick feel for your carbon footprint by answering the questions in the table opposite. Just be honest about your choices and then add up the total at the end.

Figures are shown in tonnes per year of CO₂e.

| | |
|---|------|
| What's your diet like? | |
| - Vegetarian | 1.4 |
| - Low meat eater | 1.7 |
| - Moderate meat eater | 2.0 |
| - High meat eater | 2.6 |
| How many miles do you drive in a car each year?* | |
| - No car | 0.0 |
| - 6,000 | 0.8 |
| - 12,000 | 1.5 |
| - 24,000 | 3.0 |
| How often do you fly? | |
| - Never | 0.0 |
| - Occasionally | 1.0 |
| - Often | 5.0 |
| - High Flyer | 10.0 |
| What fuel do you use for heating? | |
| - Oil | 2.2 |
| - Gas | 1.5 |
| - Direct electric | 1.3 |
| - Heat pump | 0.6 |
| How much electricity do you use? | |
| - Low | 0.2 |
| - Medium | 0.5 |
| - High | 0.8 |
| How much do you spend on stuff? | |
| - Low | 1.0 |
| - Moderate | 2.7 |
| - High | 5.0 |
| Your carbon footprint = | |

*If you drive an EV you can halve the carbon cost of driving a car.

Where do you fit in?

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| High carbon footprint No action | High carbon footprint Taking action |
| Low carbon footprint No action | Low carbon footprint Living sustainably |

