Carbon Footprint and Climate Change

What it means

Global warming and the resulting change in the climate is attributed to excessive gas emissions over time. To combat climate change and its consequences, such as severe storms, flooding, and heatwaves, we need to reduce gas emissions.

A carbon footprint corresponds to the whole amount of greenhouses gases or “GHGs” which include the production of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane produced directly and indirectly, to support a person’s lifestyle and activities.
Carbon footprints are usually measured in equivalent tons of CO2 (carbon dioxide), during the period of a year, and they can be associated with an individual, an organisation, a product, or an event.

Almost everything has an associated carbon footprint with most GHGs coming from the production and consumption of fossil fuels such as food, manufactured goods, materials, travel and transport and any other services.

To get an indication of your own personal carbon footprint, how it is made up and how you might be able reduce it the following websites contain a carbon footprint calculator where a questionnaire can be completed to estimate/calculate your CO2 emissions.

- https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/
- https://www.carbonindependent.org/index.html
- https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

Energy Tips and how to keep your heat!

Stop leaks from doors & windows, draft excluders.
Turn it off! – turn off lights when going out of the room.
Use energy wisely – save it when you cook.
Tweak your boiler settings.

Easy to do

Use less water – dishwasher
Washing machine – wash clothes at a lower temperature
Draft excluders in your chimney, chimney balloons, door/window draft excluders
Turn down the boiler temperature
Switch energy supplier to green energy

Low impact

Unplug appliances when not in use, however some appliances rely on a digital service e.g. landline telephones, lifeline, smart meters. Also, consideration must be given to those who are disabled and rely on their appliance to be switched on all the time, e.g. heart monitors.

Energy light bulbs
Sash windows – these can be covered by specialist cling film which will stop heat from escaping.

Hard to do (substantial costs involved)

Replace less energy efficient appliances.
Home insulation – conservatory, loft, and cavity wall
Condensing boiler
Solar Panels

High Impact

Turn down water temperature/heating.
Often found in private rented properties older and less efficient boilers
Buying power – solar panels are often cheaper if bought in bulk and therefore would be suitable for groups of people to get together in their local communities.