

## Carbon footprint survey feedback.

There was a consensus that this type of survey is not nuanced enough so doesn't really point up opportunities to make a difference, and in many cases arduous to use. We need to find different ways to go about this.

### Comments

1. It was easy to use as long as you weren't obsessional about precision. I came out at 7.56 which, like you, would come down to 6 without the international flights that I'm reluctant to drop at this stage in my life. The other big one is domestic fuel – and I couldn't move on that one without a bit of negotiation! I didn't look very deeply into them, but I'm sceptical about the offsetting options offered when you click through: the projects may be good in their own right, but we shouldn't kid ourselves that that in some way entitles us to keep consuming carbon regardless.
2. I just did mine which is 10 tonnes p.a. (thanks to a flight to Joburg before Christmas) – I suspect that were I less housebound mine would be somewhat higher (I generally fly to Joburg 2 or 3 times p.a. in which case I'd be seriously compromised. Doing it made me think though....Using this calculator, my carbon footprint is 5.76, though the secondary category is pretty hard to get exact.
3. I have done the carbon thing and my footprint for the last 12 months is 6.59. I found it easy and informative. My pledge is to walk to Hyde Park more often and not take the bus, to buy food with less packaging and to use less illegal coal in my lovely open fire.
4. I set about filling in the carbon footprint calculator with enthusiasm as I'd really like to know how I'm doing. I gave up when I reached the travel section. Not having a car I'm using buses, Tubes and trains all the time. I haven't a clue how many miles I've travelled on them. I can't even make a sensible guess since I could be out by thousands. I'm disappointed. The experience has made me wonder if those not focused on climate change will actually complete it. The mileage problem is much easier for car-owners and also commuters whose travel is more repetitive - I'm all over the show.
5. I think the carbon calculator is overall an excellent tool. I found it interesting, informative and user-friendly. I particularly like the options and implicit suggestions it provides throughout for offsetting and mitigation - they make the whole exercise much more positive and engaging. I also found it quite shocking to see so clearly how greedy and careless our society's (and my personal) culture and lifestyle are. My footprint is 9.39. I am aware that some of my answers were probably imprecise / inaccurate although I tried to be as accurate (and honest!) as possible. I did wonder whether car use, being such a major carbon offender, should be divided to reflect shared ownership and multiple occupancy journeys. I very seldom use the car on my own. Minor frustrations were that, as always with structured surveys, I could not always make my answers fit well into any of the forced responses (eg, I am mainly vegetarian and eat a little fish). I am resolved to do something to reduce my footprint and/or its effects. I pledge to make more effort to buy only organic food that is in season and locally grown, to cut down on car usage (fewer, perhaps longer trips away) and to explore/ act on offsetting options. I find it hard to judge how easy it will be to get the PCC and the wider community to commit significantly to taking up what is undoubtedly a major personal challenge. It promises to be interesting..!
6. Sorry, even if I can work out my fuel by looking at old bills etc, I have not a clue how many miles I travel on buses or tubes in a year, as a non-driving working Londoner. I think the scale of the arithmetic or guesstimating involved may be a huge problem in getting even less enthusiastic people to attempt this. Having said which, and after some, indeed, wild guesstimating of bus and tube distances using an old A-Z, I have come up with 6.73 - only one round trip on a plane to Italy but I've probably forgotten some train trips - however I can't find the pledges, only the page that tries to sell you schemes and I'd rather make my own arrangements with charities. My worst part was the "secondary" page where I mostly said I "try" to e.g.

buy local and avoid packaging, and I already only buy clothes when I need to, but I fear that's as good as it's going to get.