



Greenhouse Gases

These are gases in the Earth's atmosphere that allow sunlight to pass through and warm the Earth. They trap the heat that the sun gives us and prevent it from leaving our atmosphere. Without greenhouse gases our planet would have an average temperature of minus 18 degrees Celsius! The main greenhouse gases are water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (NO₂) and ozone (O₃). The majority of human generated CO₂ emissions come from the burning of fossil fuels. The majority of CH₄ emissions come from agriculture.

Carbon Emissions

This refers to the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are the main contributors to climate change. Since greenhouse gas emissions are often calculated as carbon dioxide equivalents, they are often referred to as 'carbon emissions' when discussing global warming or the greenhouse effect. Since the industrial revolution the burning of fossil fuels has increased, which directly correlates to the increase of carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere and thus the rapid increase of global warming.

Net-zero

In general, for something to be net-zero means that it results in neither a surplus nor a deficit of something specified when gains and losses are added together. In the context of climate change it means producing enough energy (from renewable sources) to offset or balance any energy consumed. In Scotland, the new Climate Change Bill commits Scotland to a target of net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. This is tougher than a net-zero carbon target, which commits only to balancing carbon dioxide emissions. Achieving net-zero emissions will mean that we no longer add more greenhouse gasses than we take out of the environment.

Just Transition

In short, the Just Transition is moving from our current state in society to one that is sustainable and fair for everyone and the planet. The International Trade Union Confederation described just transition as an integrated approach to sustainable development, where social progress, environmental protection and economic needs are brought into a framework of democratic governance, where labour and other human rights are respected and gender equality achieved.



Non-renewable Energy

This is energy that comes from a finite source, meaning that it will run out or it won't be replenished for thousands or even millions of years. Most sources of non-renewable energy involve the burning of fossil fuels.

Renewable Energy

This is energy that comes from a source that will always be available to us, like the sun. Examples of renewable energy sources are solar energy (sun), wind turbines (wind), hydro or tidal energy (water).

Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels are a non-renewable energy source. They include oil, coal and gas. These fuel types were created by a natural process, the decomposition of organic matter buried under ground for millions of years. Oil, coal and gas can be used to generate electricity but by doing so we need to burn them which releases CO₂, a greenhouse gas, as well as other pollutants.

Active Travel

Active travel means making journeys by physically active means, like walking or cycling.

COP26 (26th Conference of the Parties)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN's climate body, holds an annual summit known as a COP, or Conference of the Parties, attended by national ministers and, for the key summits, heads of state. The UNFCCC establishes agreements between the Parties to act on climate change. It also takes scientific guidance from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), who present their Assessment Reports (AR) every five years.

Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product.

Calculate your carbon Footprint on the WWF website - <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>