



Offsetting your emissions

Individuals, businesses, and countries create greenhouse gas emissions in our daily lives. Emissions can be reduced through simple daily activities such as minimizing driving, using renewable electricity where possible, installing energy efficient light bulbs, and purchasing food sourced close by rather than transported food.

Table 1 illustrates the average annual travel and household CO₂ emissions for an individual. By adding relevant scenarios together, it is clear how emissions can quickly add up. By working out an individual's emissions, often referred to as our carbon footprint, and multiplying it by country's population, the amount of CO₂ emitted into the atmosphere is immense.

Carbon footprint minimization and the purchase of carbon credits to offset the remaining emissions is a common method for individuals and businesses to become carbon neutral.

This same basic principle of minimizing emissions and purchasing credits is the basis of the carbon market, from local through to international levels.

Average Carbon Dioxide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

| <u>Scenario</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Tons of CO₂ per year</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Small Home | 1-2 Bedrooms | 7.3 |
| Large Home | 3-4 bedrooms | 12.1 |
| Small-Med Car | 4cyl engine; 15,000km per year | 3.4 |
| Large Car/Small 4wd | 6cyl engine; 15,000km per year | 4.31 |
| Motorbike | 125cc-500cc; 15,000km per year | 1.5 |
| Domestic Flight 1 | 2 hours each way | 0.3 |
| Domestic Flight 2 | 1 hour each way | 0.15 |
| International Flights | USA-Australia return | 2 |
| Individual | Current US and Australian average | 16 |