

### You and your energy

This month's Greensheet takes information from the Ecochurch website. We are currently applying for their gold award. The site is FULL of advice and links on how and what we can do to encourage each other to save energy, Gods planet and money! Here are just a few things you may not be aware of and may interest you. You can of course read more by logging on at: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

Energy is always in the news. And it costs us more than just our fuel bills. Carbon dioxide is a major cause of climate change and ocean acidification which also impacts on biodiversity.

It's easy to be rendered inactive. We can point the finger at others or feel overwhelmed by the scale of the problem, or point to large populations elsewhere in the world. With a little thought though, we can reduce our energy consumption, reduce our personal carbon impact and save money, without any significant impact on our lifestyles. If you grew up under rationing, many of these adjustments will be second nature to you.

### **CHANGING TECHNOLOGY, CHANGING IMPACT**

As our lifestyles change, so do our carbon emissions and it's easy to miss what is happening. One area we may overlook is 'the Cloud'. Automatic backup makes it easy to store far more videos, photos and emails than we need. On 'the Cloud' it is someone else's problem. Would you really fill a room at home with photos and videos which are out of focus, duplicates or that you will never look at again?

Ever wondered how many carbon emissions are generated by online activity? Have a look at this link; <https://www.climatecare.org/resources/news/infographic-carbon-footprint-internet/> It also includes tips to reduce your internet carbon footprint by unsubscribing from email newsletters that no longer interest you, limiting your "reply all's", and using renewable-powered cloud services.

The internet, email, and cloud-based services have cut down on tons of physical resources like paper. But the carbon emissions produced from manufacturing, powering, and cooling computers, smartphones, and data centers can add up. The greening of the internet is the next endeavor in our hyperconnected era.

We can't sit back and wait for the internet to become net zero - it's today's emissions that cause tomorrow's climate change. We all need to take full responsibility for our digital carbon footprint today.

**Carbon Trust;** <https://www.carbontrust.com/>

Everything we buy, produce and use has an environmental impact. If you're looking to lessen that impact and shop more sustainably, look for the Carbon Trust's footprint label on products.

**What is a product's carbon footprint?** The carbon footprint of a product is the total carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases emitted during its lifecycle. That includes production, distribution, use and disposal.

**What is a carbon footprint label and what does it mean?** The Carbon Trust's footprint label appears on a product or its packaging. It shows a brand is working to measure and reduce the carbon emissions of that product – and demonstrates its commitment for the future.

Our leading environmental label features a footprint with the words 'Carbon Trust Certified'. That means the carbon footprint of the product or its packaging has been measured to internationally recognised standards and verified by the Carbon Trust.

**What other information can I learn?** Often, you'll see a panel sharing more information about the footprint. On smaller products with limited space, there might just be a website address or QR code you can scan with your smartphone camera to read more. You'll find out if the product's carbon footprint is: Reducing year-on-year. Carbon neutral. Lower than other best-known products.

**How does my purchase make an impact?** We can't solve the climate crisis alone. But if we all start taking steps in our everyday shopping habits to reduce our carbon footprint, it all adds up. The more we understand about a product's environmental footprint, the better choices we can make. By choosing more sustainable products, you're sending a message to brands that you care about the planet and the impact of what you buy. They might label more of their products. Meanwhile, other brands take note of what their competitors are doing, and may follow suit. It's just one way we can reduce our environmental impact – one foot at a time.

**What products can I buy?** We've certified over 27,000 individual product footprints, and many display our label in more than 40 countries. Look for it on Tetra Pak packaging, Wyke Farms' cheese, Evian water and Quorn products, for example.

**A label you can trust** Product carbon footprint labels are a key part of our mission to accelerate the move to a decarbonised future. We launched the world's first carbon footprint label in 2007. We've been pioneers for more than 20 years. We're independent, and we're experts at what we do. That means you can trust our label.