Going Beyond
Net Zero

GATHER TECHNOLOGY

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FOUNDER

GOING BEYOND NET ZERO

Introduction

Net Zero means that we'll be taking as much Carbon out of the atmosphere as we're emitting.

The UK has a target of Net Zero by 2050, and we all have a responsibility to play our part in achieving that. This responsibility presents an opportunity to create positive change for the planet and your business.

My aim is to help you understand and capitalise on this opportunity.

To help your business and our planet, I'm going to share:

1. How to calculate your impact
2. Practical ways to reduce your emissions
3. How you can use offsetting to balance your impact
4. Help you to go beyond Net Zero and become climate positive.

Climate Change is a global issue and the most significant long-term challenge facing our species' continued existence on planet earth. We all need to be part of the solution for a better world.

WE NEED TO **HALVE CARBON EMISSIONS** BY 2030 AND REACH **NET ZERO BY 2050**

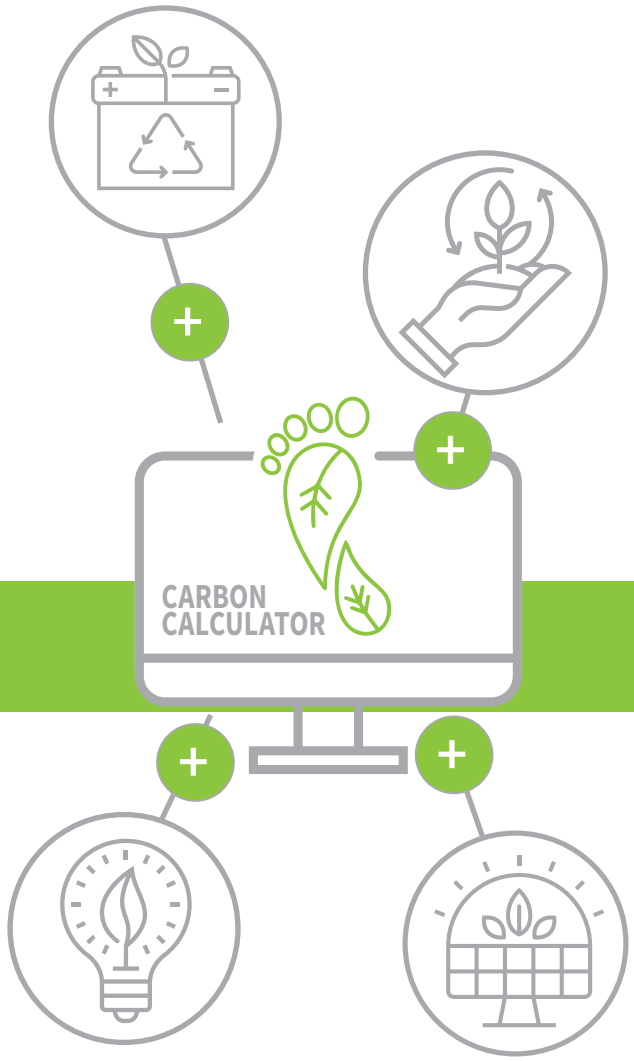
"We are at a unique stage in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet, and never before have we had the power to do something about that. Surely we all have a responsibility to care for our Blue Planet. The future of humanity and indeed, all life on earth, now depends on us."

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR IMPACT

Search for “Carbon Calculator for Business” in Google, and you’ll get over sixty million results.

If you’ve ever tried a Carbon Calculator, you’ll have battled with the esoteric terminology, ambiguity, and seemingly endless demands for information that you either do not have, or would need to spend a lot of time to find.



Calculating your business’ Carbon Footprint doesn’t need to be that difficult.

Instead, you can simplify the whole process by making some basic assumptions and applying common sense. I’d also recommend erring on the side of over-estimation. This will ensure your figures fully cover any carbon emissions and subsequent actions are not in vain.

The primary assumption is that your Carbon Footprint is calculated solely based on regular, ongoing emissions and not irregular one-offs. To use more familiar financial terms, we’re interested in operating expenditure, not capital expenditure.

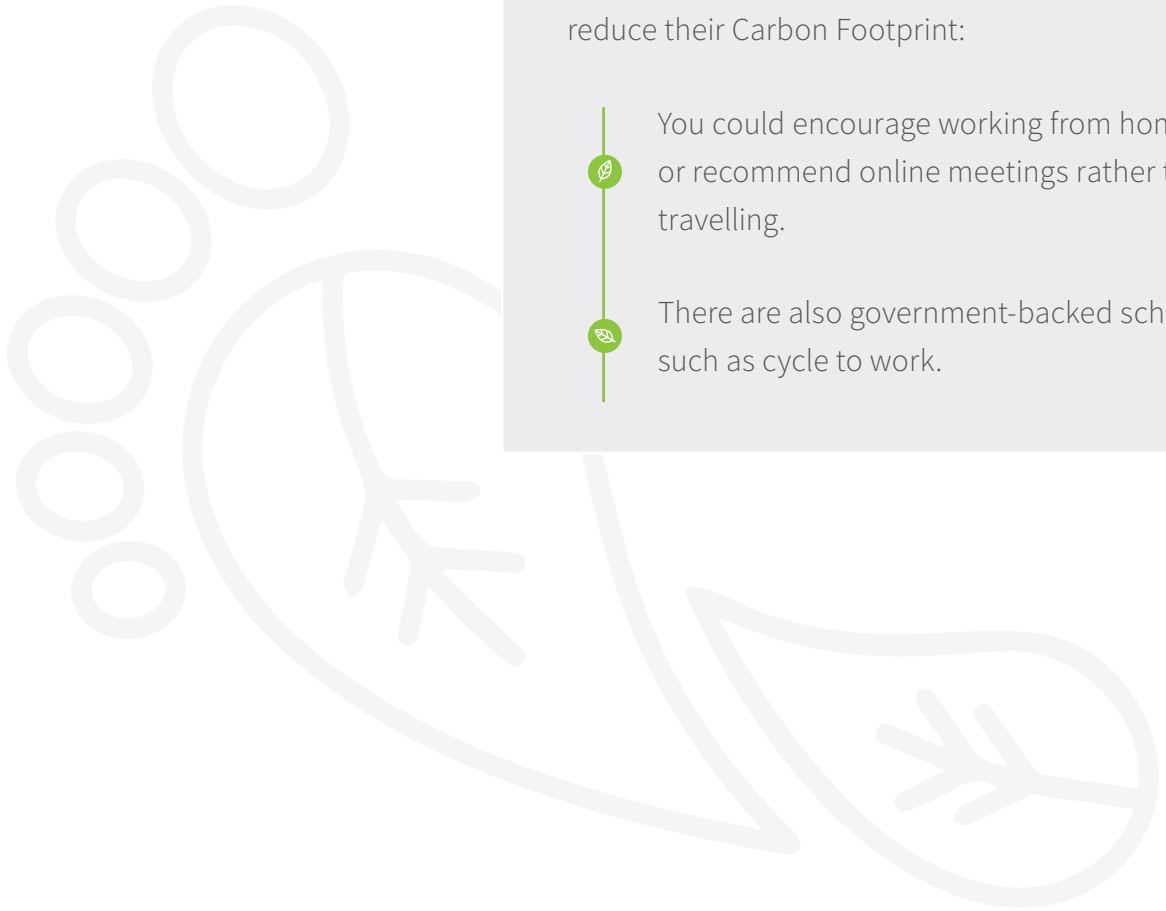
The reason for making this assumption is that in almost all cases, capital Carbon expenditure is related to the manufacture of your purchases. Let’s take a computer as an example: It doesn’t make sense for you to account for its manufacture in your Carbon footprint. It should be the responsibility of the manufacturing business to account for the emissions related to their computer’s production. This doesn’t mean that you won’t look to buy from the greenest manufacturer: You should absolutely consider the green credentials of any purchase. However, you don’t need to include its manufacturing process in your calculations.

We'll make a further assumption that your business is not responsible for staff travelling to the office. Since you cannot control how they travel or where they travel from, it is an unnecessary inclusion. If, however, your team is travelling to carry out work, for example, to a client's site, this will be accounted for since this can be influenced.

As with our first assumption, it doesn't mean we'll be ignoring ways to reduce emissions from staff travelling to the office.

There are many ways you can help your staff reduce their Carbon Footprint:

- You could encourage working from home or recommend online meetings rather than travelling.
- There are also government-backed schemes, such as cycle to work.



Our final assumption is that (much like a set of financial accounts) your Carbon Footprint will cover a defined period; typically a calendar year or a financial year.

TO CALCULATE YOUR EMISSIONS, YOU'LL NEED NUMBERS.

Answer the following questions to collect your data:

What is your Fuel consumption?

Fuel is consumed by your organisation across its sites, vehicles and machinery. This can be natural gas, diesel or LPG. You may find this information in bills, fuel card data or meters. Many providers now make it very easy to get this information through online portals.

What is your Energy consumption?

This covers the electricity used on your sites. You may find this information through meter readings, utility bills, or automatic meter readings. As with Fuel, many providers have online portals to help you get access to this information.

Do you make top-ups to air conditioning units?

Many refrigeration, fire protection, and air conditioning equipment contain a type of Fluorinated greenhouse gas or F gas. This has a large carbon footprint! You can find this information in the service sheets provided by your air conditioning or refrigeration contractor.

You can use the table to record this information if you'd like:

Emissions Type	Units	Amount
Electricity	KWh	
Natural Gas	m3	
LPG	Litres	
Petrol	Litres	
Diesel	Litres	
R404A	Kg	
R407A	Kg	
R407C	Kg	
R408A	Kg	
R410A	Kg	
R134a	Kg	

The next step is entering this data into our online Carbon Calculator

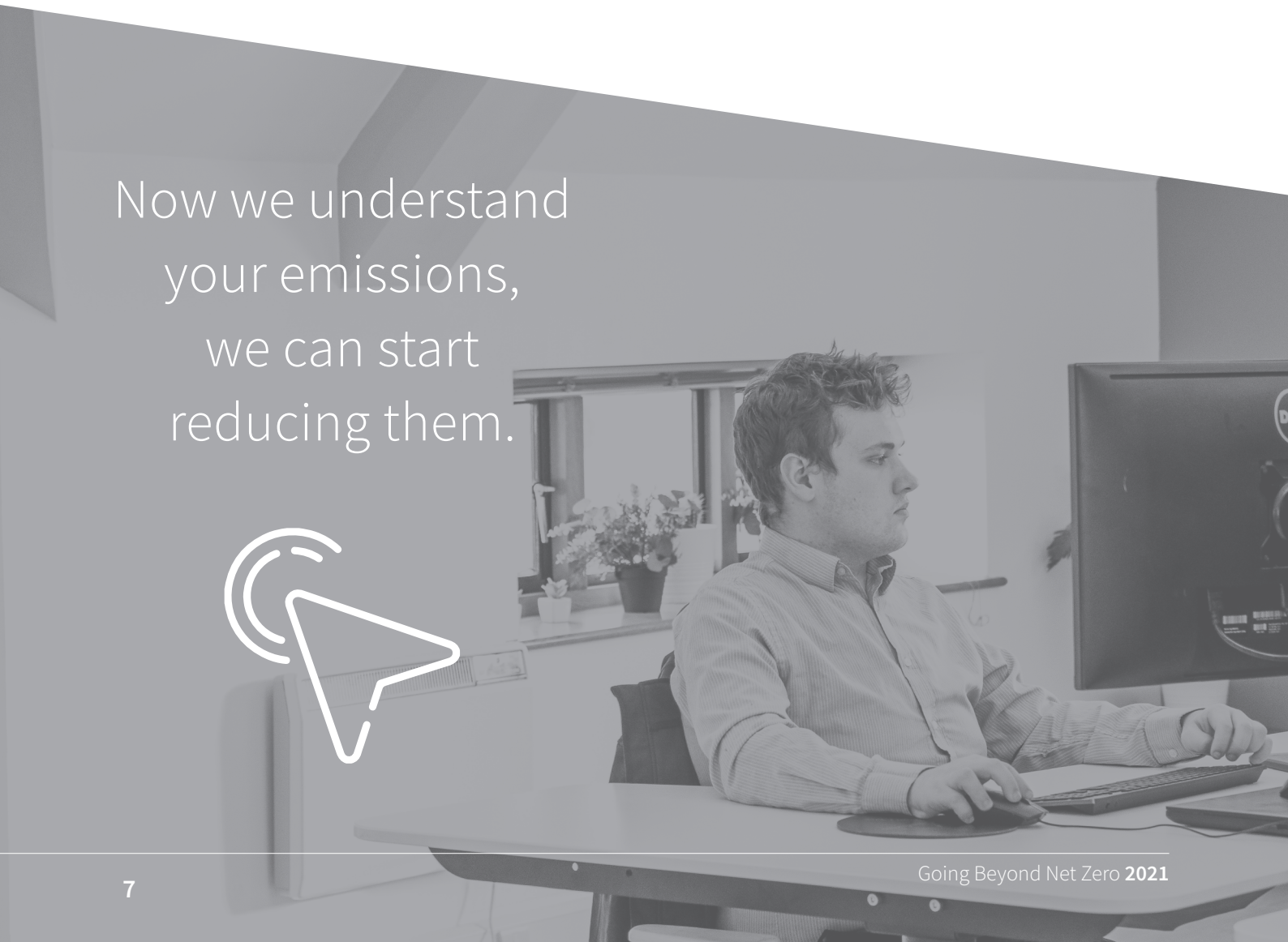
You'll also be prompted for a margin of error percentage. You might be inclined to put this as 0; but, I'd always recommend overestimating to cover your Carbon emissions, therefore our default is 20%.

Visit our online calculator below:

You'll end up with a result that looks *something* like this:

Emissions from direct energy and processes:	**12,730 kgCO2e**
Indirect emissions from electricity:	**23,314 kgCO2e**
Total emissions:	**36,044 kgCO2e**

Now we understand your emissions, we can start reducing them.



8 WAYS
TO REDUCE YOUR EMISSIONS

There's no single, uniform way to reduce emissions. Each company will map a route to Net Zero that suits them.

There's no single, uniform way to reduce emissions and each business is different. But to help you get started on your own journey to Net Zero, here are eight common approaches that are targeted at reducing the emissions we've just calculated.

Get electric vehicles

- If you have company cars or run a company car fleet, a simple way of reducing your emissions is to replace them with electric cars. The government are offering **incentives**, and the range to choose from is increasing (and becoming more affordable) all the time.

Go Digital

- The pandemic forced everyone to use digital platforms, such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom and others. Whilst no one would argue that these are equal to meeting in person, they are excellent green alternatives! If you only have a short meeting or quick catch up, opting to do it remotely will save time, energy and travel emissions.

Switch it off

- Small actions combine to make a big difference. Start by focusing on the little things: Switch off your lights and computers at the end of the day. Anything that uses electricity and contributes significantly to your bill, just turn it off when it's not in use. We know not everyone has the budget for automatic lights. Instead, try simple things: Signage by the office exit reminding employees to "Switch It Off" can be surprisingly effective.

Change to energy-saving light bulbs

- This is a simple switch. Energy-saving light bulbs use up to 85% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than regular light bulbs. Soon, inefficient light bulbs won't be available, as manufacturers are no longer allowed to produce them. Make the change now and see the benefits in your emissions/electricity bill.

Switch to Net Zero or 100% Renewable Electricity plans

- Almost all electricity providers offer these packages now. While slightly more expensive than fossil-fuel alternatives, they will empower you to reduce your electricity emissions to almost zero.

Create an Environmental Policy

- In the future, this will be part of your standard policies and procedures. Most people are genuinely concerned about the environment. They will be proud to work for or buy from a company that shares their green values. Publish it on your website and show the world that you stand amongst those making changes for a better future.

Smart climate control

- Whether it's trying to keep employees warm in the depths of winter or cool at the peak of summer, your office climate control will be producing carbon emissions. Using smart decisions, your business can significantly reduce these emissions! Did you know that running your air conditioning at 24 degrees rather than 22 can save between 6 to 18% on your cooling bill? This goes for the server room too!

Carbon Offsetting

- I've saved this till last because it should be your very last resort. Net Zero is only achievable through permanent change and continued action. We all must be accountable for reducing our Carbon Footprint but when you have reduced your emissions as much as you can without high cost or disruption to your business, it might be time to consider Carbon Offsetting.

Carbon Offsetting

Carbon Offsetting is an internationally recognised method of taking responsibility for your business' unavoidable emissions.

There are countless existing carbon offsetting projects, including:

PLANTING TREES

Planting Trees to suck Carbon out of the Atmosphere

A full grown tree can absorb up to 21 kilograms of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) per year. Over a lifetime of 100 years, one tree could absorb a tonne of CO2. Based on our earlier example, this means you'd need to plant at least 36 trees a year to offset the Carbon emissions.

A wide range of schemes are available to support this kind of offsetting, from woodland in the UK to rainforests in South America, there's a tree-planting project to suit every budget. You can buy per CO2 Tonne for as little as £4.55! All of the hard work will be done for you by charitable organisations like Earthly, Carbon Neutral Britain, Forest Carbon and many others.

DONATE STOVES

Donating efficient stoves to third world countries

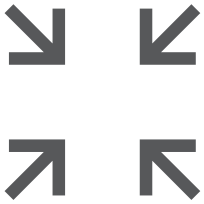
Many third world countries use conventional open fire methods of cooking that require the use of firewood. Most of this firewood comes from non-renewable sources; this directly contributes to a reduced capacity for emission reductions.

As a result, efficient stoves, such as the ONIL stove, will save between 3-4 Tonnes of CO_2 per year. You could offset with these sorts of community projects for as little as £8.50 per Tonne.

Support Clean Drinking Water Community Projects

In Sub-Saharan Africa, many rural communities struggle to find clean, safe drinking water. Water is drawn from pools or rivers that are contaminated with pollutants and potentially lethal bacteria. The only way to make this water palatable and safe to drink is to boil it. This boiling process is a problem if it uses open fire, since this produces Carbon emissions. By donating to community borehole projects, you can offset some of your Carbon emissions and also help some of the world's poorest communities to access clean, safe water.

CLEAN WATER

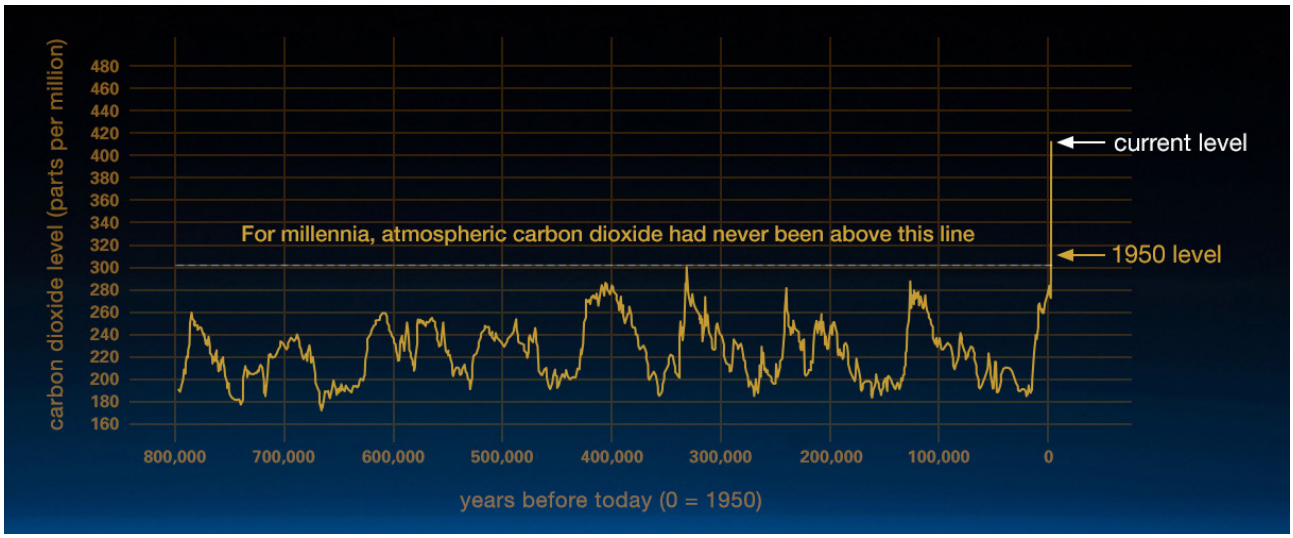


REDUCE

Reduce what you can, Offset what you can't

No business can achieve Net Zero without Carbon Offsetting but Offsetting alone is not the answer. We must reduce our emissions first, and use Offsetting for the remainder. If you can adopt that mindset, then the goal of Net Zero is an achievable reality.

Once we've reached Net Zero, it's time to look beyond this, and that is where Carbon Offsetting can become something altogether more powerful…



* SOURCE: https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence

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In October 2021, Atmospheric CO2 was measured at 413.93 parts per million. For 800,000 years before 1950, it had never been above 300 parts per million.

Once we've achieved Net Zero, why would you want to go beyond it? Because our true goal doesn't stop at Net Zero. This is a continued effort to protect and replenish our planet. Only by going beyond Net Zero can we can start to reverse the damage that we have done.

Imagine if your business' Carbon footprint was actually a negative number! Your business' very existence would be having a real, tangible, positive impact on our planet.

Sooner or later, your customers are going to expect it from you. It doesn't matter who you serve; a part of the buying process is checking out a supplier's environmental credentials.

The most successful companies in the world know this. Amazon, Google, Apple, and Microsoft have all pledged considerable resources to become Carbon Neutral or Carbon Negative by 2030.

Procurement processes for large organisations already require you to jump through a lot of hoops – soon, if not already, you will be required to be accountable for your Carbon Footprint.

Consumers everywhere are all too aware of a business's green credentials. That is why so many consumer brands are signing up to Carbon Accreditation and Assurance Schemes, such as the Carbon Trust's Carbon Neutral.

Your customers, big, small, individual, and otherwise, are judging you. Act now and be a force for good!

Do something positive:
Become Carbon Negative!

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