



COP27, Climate and Me

**Working together
to help the planet**



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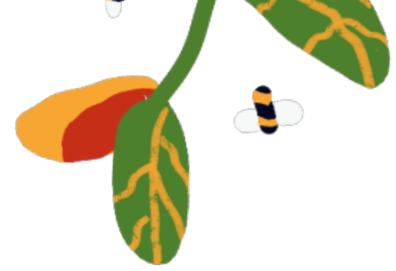
In November, senior leaders from almost every country are due to meet in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt for one of the most important meetings for the future of our world. It's the annual UN COP – the meeting where countries come together to see how they are progressing towards the target of limiting climate change.

With droughts, wildfires, and heatwaves cascading, it's clear that progress is limited. That's why the theme of this year's COP is "Together for Implementation". Or put simply, time for action.

As country leaders gather to talk about the climate, it's easy to feel that the solution is "for them to sort out". But what we do as individuals matters too. Use your voice and influence to encourage your employer, community, friends, and colleagues to follow your lead in living more sustainably and raise awareness of those more vulnerable to climate change.

In this report, we detail how every individual can get involved in helping achieve the aims of COP27. Not only are the four key aims of COP27 crucial for governments, but they are also relevant to every citizen of the world.

And it all starts with taking a step.



Background to COP

Each year the UN holds the COP climate conference, where countries, companies, and citizens come together to assess progress on fighting climate change and work out what to do next. The first COP was held in Berlin in 1995, and in November, Sharm El-Sheikh will host COP27.

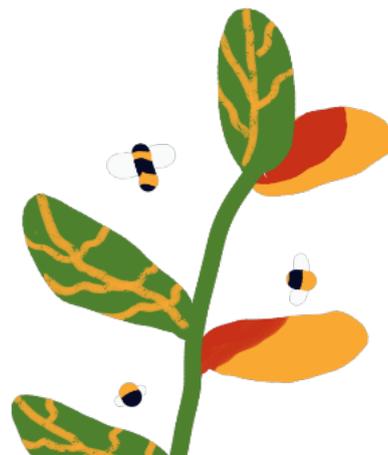
In recent years there have been 2 particularly important COP meetings.

Paris (COP21) in 2015 was a milestone because countries agreed to limit warming to 1.5C, review commitments every five years, and provide finance to developing countries so that they can not only cut emissions but also adapt to climate impacts.

Glasgow (COP26) in 2021 was another big meeting because the rules and systems to reduce emissions were agreed upon. Countries also committed to checking back every year, rather than every five years, on their targets which are called their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), intended to increase the much needed pace of change.

Normally the 'big' COP meetings are every five years, but with this new annual checkback, each COP has taken on new importance and that's why Sharm El Sheikh (COP27) is so vital. For the meeting in Egypt, the key topics are how the world will implement everything that governments have been talking about and how to make progress on climate finance.

COP27 is also important because it's hosted in Africa, which accounts for just 4% of emissions but is among the worst hit by climate change. As a result, there will be discussion about adaptation, loss, and damage. 'Adaptation' is how communities can respond to the effects of climate change. The issue of loss and damage deals with the controversial issue of how countries should be compensated for the harms caused by climate change. It is controversial because the countries most affected have historically had far lower emissions and have played little part in causing the current climate crisis.



Why COP27 is so important

In August 2021, a momentous scientific report was published that drew together research from the world's most eminent climate scientists. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the body that reports to governments on climate change, and this summer they produced their sixth assessment report looking at scientific, technical, social, and economic knowledge on climate change. It ran to 4000 pages, but within the text, there were four clear messages.

1. The science is unequivocal. Climate change is happening and caused by humans.
2. We have already seen over 1°C of global warming. There is increased warming on land, and in certain parts of the world, such as the Arctic, warming is happening even faster.
3. Extreme weather events, floods, and heat have increased since the 1950s due to climate change. They will continue to do so as we fail to cut emissions.
4. In almost all emissions scenarios global warming is expected to hit 1.5 °C in the early 2030s and go up if we don't cut emissions.¹

As a previous IPCC lead author, Professor Michael E Mann, said in a recent interview: "The scientific community is literally yelling from the rooftops... [the report] drives home the unprecedented impact we are having on this planet."²

The key take-home is one of certainty and urgency. It is very clear from the findings that we must do everything we can to address the causes of climate change. With almost three in four³ global greenhouse gas emissions coming from households, this includes action not just from policymakers and businesses but also from people – that means every single one of us!

A working group report from the IPCC in 2022 provided, for the first time, a focus on the role of individuals. By 2050 changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 40–70%⁴

To address this challenge, we need to cut emissions globally in half this decade to achieve a 1.5 °C world. We will only achieve this if we change the way we do things.

#ThinkCarbon

By 2050 changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 40–70%.

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>

² <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/ipcc-report-the-tipping-point-for-action-with-michael-e-mann/id1459416461?i=1000531549948>

³ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/behaviour-change-public-engagement-and-net-zero-imperial-college-london/>

⁴ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_Chapter_05.pdf

The four goals of COP27 and how we can get involved

COP27 has four overarching goals that will act as a common thread for all the meetings, sessions, and debates. Below we explain them and how individuals can get involved in each one.

All goals sit under the overall conference mission, to achieve “ambitious, substantive outcomes commensurate with the challenge based on science” and the tagline, “together for implementation”. It can be hard to fathom what this means but, in short, we need to work together to do something right now because we’re deep in trouble!

As the Egyptian Minister for the Environment has put it, “COP27 is the COP for action”.



Goal 1

Shifting from pledging to implementation at scale



What does this mean?

Much of the COP process to date has been about setting targets to reduce emissions, working out how to measure progress against those targets, and making pledges. Country targets are called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, there's been insufficient action to move beyond pledging, and in a decade when we need to halve global emissions, they are still rising.

That's why there are plenty of countries with 2050 Net Zero intentions but far fewer who are making progress in cutting carbon in line with halving emissions this decade, which is what is so critically required. You can see how every country in the world is progressing on the [Climate Action Tracker](#).

At COP27, the aim is for countries to ensure the implementation of the Glasgow pact and countries coming back and raising their ambitions for the cuts they will make while also showing what real progress they are making.

A good outcome will be lots of countries coming up with tougher targets and evidence of what they are doing today. A bad outcome would be everyone explaining why their long-term goals are sufficient.

What's your number?

While countries are required to cut emissions, as citizens, we will also play a crucial role, as highlighted in the recent IPCC report of April 2022. While many of us want to play our part, busy lives, or other important priorities, such as the 2022 cost of living crisis, mean sustainability and the planet can understandably go to the bottom of the list.

But there are ways for everyone to get involved, and we find at Giki, it all starts with 'What's Your Number?' You can get an easy-to-understand score to keep track of everything you're doing for the planet.

Once you know your number on [Giki Zero](#) (a combination of your carbon footprint and all the steps you are taking to improve it), there's always something you can do to improve it, and many of the steps that we need to take to cut carbon can save money too. Here we look at the main parts of someone's carbon footprint and cover actions, not pledges, that we can take from quick wins to steps that will have a significant impact.

As a background, the average per capita carbon footprint in wealthy nations is 10 tonnes per person per year⁵. This needs to reduce to 2.5 tonnes per person globally by 2030, to achieve a halving of global emissions⁶.

Think of this as your own NDC, or target, and then think about how you can track everything you are doing to get there.

The largest components of personal carbon footprints tend to be diets, home, and transport. In this section, we detail some big impact steps we can make in these three key areas, starting with food. Taking steps will ensure you've moved from pledges to action.



⁵ Giki analysis based on consumption

⁶ The average global per capita carbon footprint is 5 tonnes, however wealthy nations have a higher per capita footprint, so need to reduce by more than half by 2030.

Take a bite out of your food footprint: Try plant-based products

Food typically makes up one-quarter of the average carbon footprint and switching to a plant-based diet can cut your food footprint in half. This is because the production of meat, dairy, and fish has a higher carbon footprint than the production of plant-based foods. There are several reasons for this:

1. Greater amounts of land are required to produce the same calories from animals as plant products due to the requirement for additional land to grow animal feed. Land used for agriculture typically absorbs less carbon than forestry or uncultivated land.
2. A lot of soy animal feed is grown in Brazil linked to deforestation. Agriculture and land use create approximately one-quarter of total global greenhouse gas emissions,⁷ and most deforestation is to provide more land for agriculture.
3. Animals, in particular red meat from cattle and sheep, produce methane, which is a highly potent greenhouse gas.



⁷ <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data>

A three-step process to get more plants into your diet:

1. Try a few plant-based products.
Try a vegetarian meal instead of a meat meal or opt for one of the many new plant-based products on the market. You can now get plant-based bacon, burgers, sausages, chicken pieces, and even chicken nuggets. As food technology evolves, they are becoming much tastier.
2. Try a period without red meat, for example, one month. There are many vegan or vegetarian chefs and recipes online now for inspiration.
3. Try animal products once a day.
This is an excellent way to make a significant cut in your food footprint. It can be easiest to avoid animal products at breakfast and lunch. For example, if you have cereal in the morning, try it with plant-based milk or yoghurt. For dinner, try swapping your sausages, burgers, or kiev for a plant-based alternative.



It is projected that by 2025 one quarter of British people will be vegetarian, and half will be flexitarian (predominantly plant-based with occasional meat or dairy). As numbers grow, the supply of plant-based options will grow.

There are two great things about taking a bite out of your food footprint. Firstly, you can start at the next meal, so the impact is immediate. Secondly, you can save money by eating more plants.

#ThinkCarbon

77% of all agricultural land is for meat and dairy but for just 18% of the calories.

Find greener transport: Switch to Electric Vehicles

In wealthier nations transport can be one of the largest parts of personal carbon footprints. Transitioning away from fossil fuels in transport is crucial to keeping below 1.5 °C. Electric cars are one of the fastest growing solutions in the transport sector.

Figure 1: Breakdown of a typical transport carbon footprint⁸

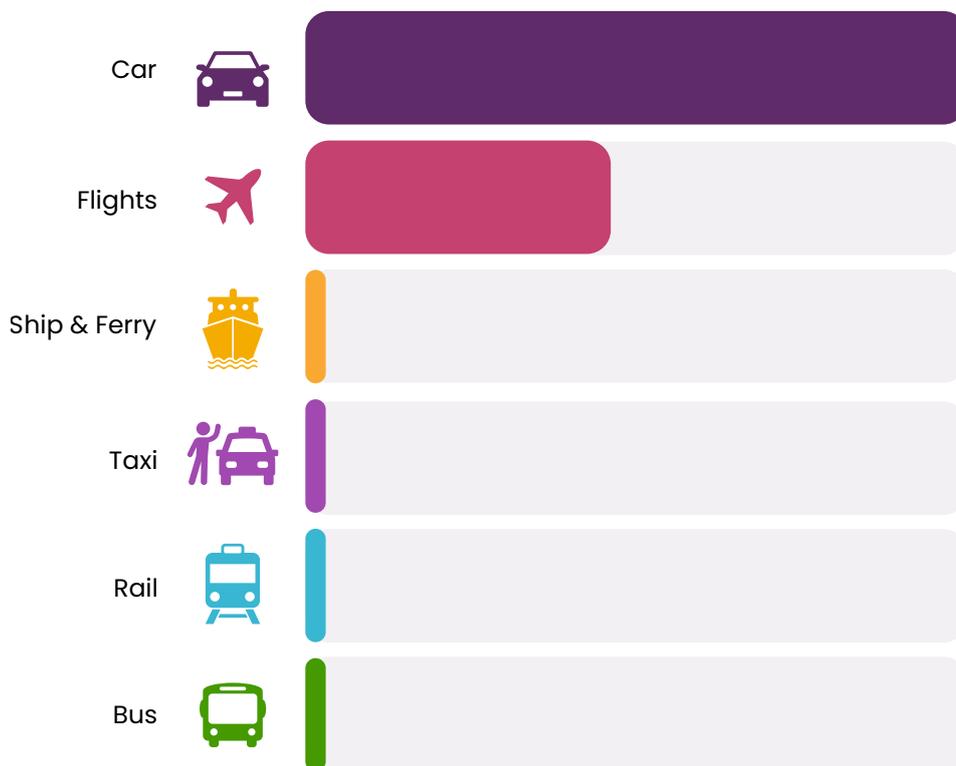


Figure 1 shows how petrol and diesel cars are one of the biggest contributors to individual carbon footprints⁹. They are also slowly being banned. Electric vehicles (EVs) typically emit zero emissions, do not emit other harmful pollutants¹⁰, and are also cheaper to run. This is due to lower fuel costs and even the ability to charge at times of day when electricity can be cheaper. Every year the price of electric cars versus their fossil fuel predecessors gets closer and closer.

⁸ Source: Giki Zero

⁹ Represents the average UK carbon footprint

¹⁰ Each year over 350,000 premature deaths around the world are attributable to car pollution. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable.

EVs look to be one of the most promising technologies for the future but most vehicles on the road today are still powered by fossil fuels.

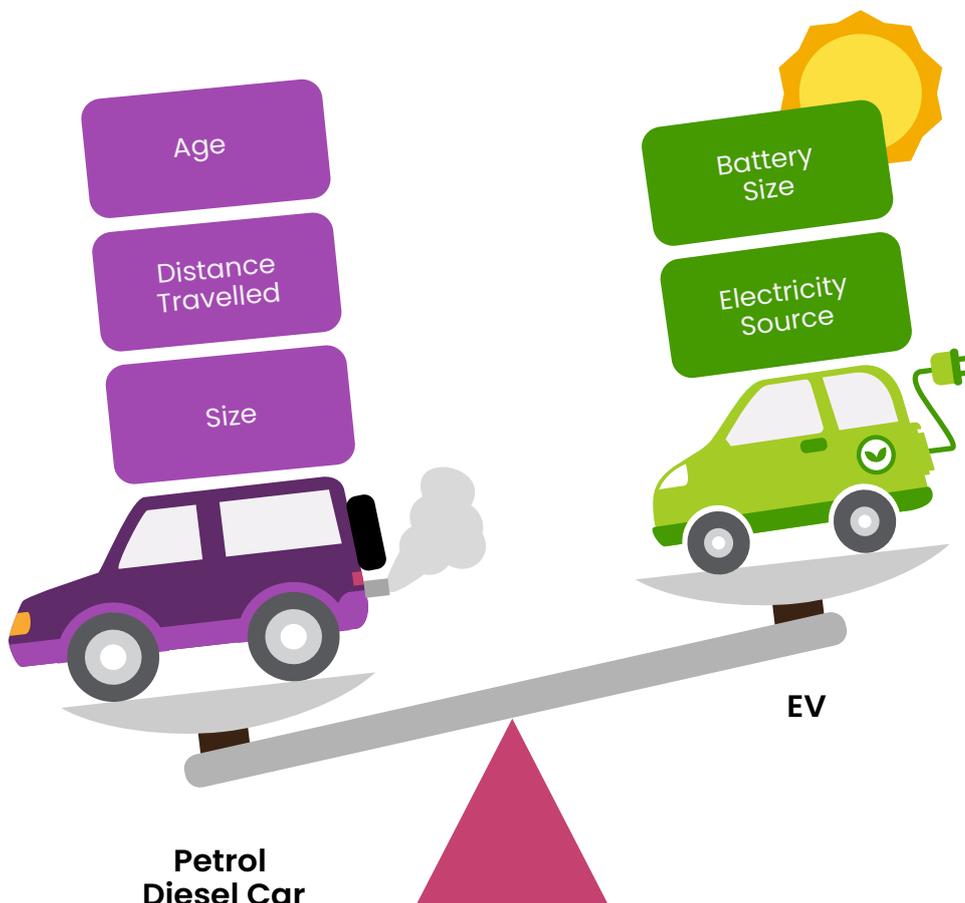
Buying an EV requires a big upfront investment, but there are ways to reduce the amount of petrol or diesel used right now that will save money on fuel bills.

#ThinkCarbon

Over the whole life of a car, and including embedded carbon, EVs emit 65% less carbon per km than petrol cars. With renewables it's 80% less.

Here's a three step process to cut emissions and pollution from petrol and diesel cars immediately:

1. Accelerate gently: Acceleration gobbles fuel, so the smoother it is, and the more you can maintain your speed, the more fuel you'll save.
2. Drive more slowly. 50mph is 25% more efficient than 70mph.
3. Drive less: when the engine is off, it isn't burning fuel. Get public transport or try to walk short distance trips which both reduce your footprint.



Save costs and carbon at home: four steps and big savings

With the price of gas soaring around the world many people are looking for ways to immediately reduce the amount of fossil fuels needed to heat our homes and provide hot water.

Heating and domestic hot water account for around 75% of household energy requirements so there's lots of scope to cut carbon emissions and costs.



Here are four ideas to cut carbon at home:

1. Turn thermostats down and turn radiators off in unused rooms. Turning your thermostats down by just 1 °C can save a big chunk of carbon throughout the year and reduce energy bills. Most households in the UK and US could turn their thermostats down by 1C and still be at 18C or above.
2. Complete Giki's work-from-home [checklist](#). Whether you work from home or not, this can help save on electricity and gas bills.
3. Insulate your home: This means less fuel is required to achieve the same level of heating, so cutting carbon and bills. It is estimated that you get payback on any investment within three years.¹¹
4. Switch to renewable electricity: Renewable energy uses nature to generate power rather than burning fossil fuels. Switching to renewables can lead to a big reduction in your carbon footprint and is one of the steps everyone needs to make. You can cut your electricity carbon footprint by over 90% if you use 100% renewable electricity.

¹¹ <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/roof-and-loft-insulation/>

Goal 2

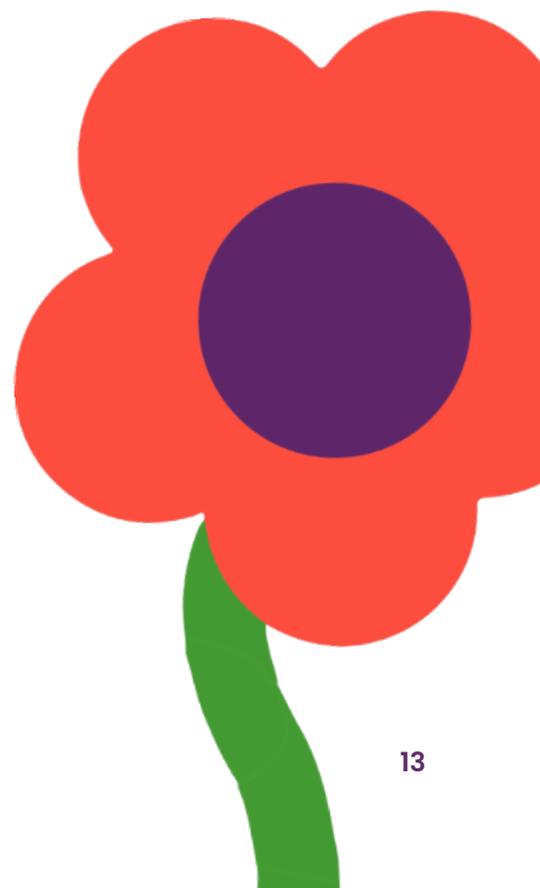
Delivering on adaptation.
Enhance resilience and
assist the most vulnerable
communities

What does this means ?

Adaptation means helping people protect themselves from the devastation of climate change. In tandem, we need to protect nature and natural environments with one million animals and plants facing extinction out of a total of eight million species known to exist.¹²

In 2022 records have been broken for droughts, heat waves, and wildfires highlighting that people need help today with the climate crisis. One of the successes of COP26 was the creation of a work programme for adaptation, but progress has been slow. This is because the impacts of climate change are accelerating, the correct response is very local, there is no one size fits all, and the most affected have the least resources to fund any programme.

¹² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>
#:~:text=The%20Report%20finds%20that%20around,20%25%2C%20mostly%20since%201900.



What this means for you

Knowing what you can do as an individual to help communities be more resilient can seem very remote until it directly impacts our homes and lives.

However, many of the small choices we make can collectively have a huge

impact on nature and local resilience, both positive and negative.

This is the food we eat and the stuff we buy. As an example, one thing we can do is avoid high-risk ingredients we eat that can cause deforestation.





Avoid Palm oil

The production of many commodities is transforming regions and countries and making communities and the natural environment less resilient as it does so.

Palm oil is one example, and palm oil production in Indonesia has led to the felling of rainforests, home to orangutans, rhinoceros, tigers, and thousands of other species, threatening many with extinction. About 12 million hectares of forest on Sumatra have been cleared in the past 22 years, a loss of nearly 50%¹³.

This is due to significant global demand for palm oil, which is a vegetable oil that is highly efficient, cheap, and very versatile. It is grown in tropical areas, and swathes of rainforest felled to produce it, often through fires, which cause pollution to surrounding areas. Palm oil can be grown sustainably, but much of it is not. Unsustainable palm oil leads to deforestation and accelerates climate change.

¹³ https://wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/sumatra/#:~:text=About%2012%20million%20hectares%20of,tigers%20left%20in%20the%20wild.

Your palm oil checklist

Some people try to avoid palm oil completely. Others try to avoid unsustainable palm oil. You can do this by:

- **Look at the ingredients list for the products in your cupboards. Start with processed snacks first. Unprocessed food is much less likely to contain palm oil. In foods, it is a requirement in Europe to list palm oil if it is an ingredient.**
- **Look at the ingredients list for products in your bathroom. Start with shampoos and shower gels. Look for palm and sodium laureth sulphate (and similar variants).¹⁴**
- **Research products you're going to switch.**

Changing some of our regular habits and encouraging people we know to do the same, can play a role in helping to protect nature and bringing pressure to bear on companies who are loath to change.

¹⁴ Palmate, Palmitate, Palmolein, Glycerol, Stearate, Stearic Acid, Elaeis Guineensis, Palmitic Acid, Palm Stearine, Palmitoyl Oxostearamide, Palmitoyl Tetrapeptide-3, Sodium Laureth Sulfate, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Sodium Kernelate, Sodium Palm Kernelate, Sodium Lauryl Lactylate/Sulphate, Hydrated Palm Glycerides, Etyl Palmitate, Octyl Palmitate, Palmityl Alcohol are some of the more common names



Goal 3

Make finance flows a reality



What does this mean?

This goal sounds underwhelming in that it's only aiming to do what has been agreed upon for many years. However, after progress in Glasgow on the \$100 billion that had already been promised, but not yet delivered, it's crucial that the money is handed over to help less developed nations invest in cutting carbon and adapting to climate change.

Expect this to be another source of controversy at the conference because money always is. There is an open question about whether \$100 billion is anywhere near enough to provide what is required but given that developed countries have failed to deliver it so far, it's important to make progress and build trust between developed and developing nations.

What this means for you

Many people overlook the impact that our money has on the climate.

Our personal bank accounts and investments are all part of the financial system. As a result, the money we save or invest may be invested in fossil fuel companies, and our pension funds may also be invested in the stock market, which often include shareholdings in fossil fuel companies. We can decide how our money is used, and whether it funds old power, such as oil and gas companies, or is invested in new low-carbon technologies.

Several banks are making Net Zero commitments for 2050, but this is too far away. Look for organisations trying to cut emissions from financing by 50% by 2030, in line with the Paris agreement and the same targets individuals are trying to achieve.

How does it work?

The same goes for investments in the stock market, so every £ or \$ you save may create more fossil fuels.

Fossil Fuel Facts

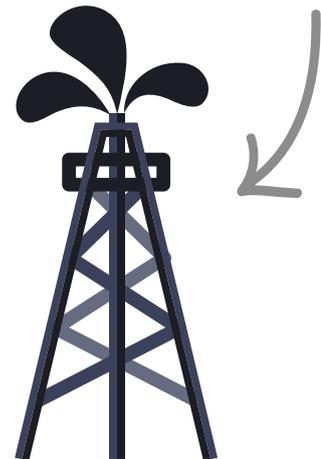
- 100 fossil fuel companies account for over half of global emissions since the Industrial Revolution. The harder it is for fossil fuel companies to find finance, the less exploration and exploitation they can do.
- Shell, one of the largest oil companies, has total emissions of over 1.5 Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide every year. That's 1,500,000,000 tonnes!
- The Bank of England¹⁵ found that you can divest from fossil fuels without hurting your investment performance.



Deposit money at the bank.



Banks lend to companies.
Some banks lend to fossil fuel companies



Fossil fuels companies use this money to explore for oil and gas, dig it out and sell it.

¹⁵ <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/events/2016/november/the-financial-impact-of-divestment-from-fossil-fuels-speaker-slides>

Greening your money

To help make your money greener, here are a few questions you can ask to help you find out more about your bank.

1. Are your financed emissions aligned with the Paris agreement?
2. Are you planning to cut financed emissions by 50% by 2030, if so, are you on track?
3. Do you lend to coal companies, companies that explore the Arctic, or companies without a Net Zero target?

You can also look beyond the banks to institutions like Credit Unions in the USA, Building Societies in the UK, and other similar organisations, usually owned by their members. These lend to people, not companies. As a result, they can be a good fossil fuel free option.

Whatever you choose, try to avoid banks that lend to companies that mine coal, burn coal for electricity, or drill in the Arctic.

#ThinkCarbon

In 2020 the world's 60 largest bank lent fossil fuel companies \$750 billion.

Greening your pension

Pensions, especially for people who have been working for a long time can have a significant carbon footprint. If you're working hard to reduce your own carbon emissions, it can be counterproductive to support companies increasing them.

1. Ask your pension provider how much you've invested in oil, gas, and coal (sometimes referred to as the Energy sector) and what options they have for switching to a lower fossil fuel option.
2. Many countries have divestment campaigns that you can join. Check out <https://gofossilfree.org/> to find a campaign near you.
3. If you've got a company pension, talk to your Human Resources department about your options. The more people who discuss this issue with HR, the more incentive for your HR team to provide sustainable options.
4. You can go further by divesting from petrochemical companies, airline firms, or utility companies that don't use renewables.

You can also switch to more sustainable investing by looking for ESG funds. They might still have some fossil fuel companies in them, but it should be much less.

Greening your money is one of the toughest steps, it takes time, but the impacts can be significant.

Goal 4

Achieve a just transition

What does this mean ?

A just transition, which means moving to a sustainable economy that's fair to everyone, is central to any climate plan, especially for developing countries.

There are many parts to a just transition, but the two recurring themes are vulnerability, and fairness.

Climate change affects everyone differently, it is the most vulnerable who are least able to cope but who are also the most likely to be affected. For example, Pakistan, hit by terrible floods in August 2022, which left 1/3rd of the country underwater, accounts for less than 1% of global emissions but is one of the top 10 countries most affected by climate change. As a result, many developing countries believe that a system to compensate them for the loss they are incurring today, which has not been of their making, is a crucial part of a just transition.

Developing countries also believe that developed countries have emitted large amounts of carbon historically it is now unfair for the historically heavy emitters to demand that those who have emitted little should cut back on fossil fuels and miss the benefits of rising wealth levels that developed countries have achieved. In short, why should they be held back by the nations that caused much of the damage? The solution to this is more finance, better directed and delivered sooner.

As the COP President puts it, this conference "must ensure humans are at the centre of climate talks".

#ThinkCarbon

The cumulative CO² emissions of Germany are almost double that of the entire African continent.

How can you get involved?

Ensuring a fair transition is often about using your voice to make people aware.

Use your voice and influence to encourage your employer, community, friends, and colleagues to follow your lead in living more sustainably and raise awareness of those more vulnerable to climate change. This is such a crucial moment in time, don't miss the opportunity. As people become more aware of the realities of climate change, you can inspire them to change how we do things, to achieve a 1.5 °C world.

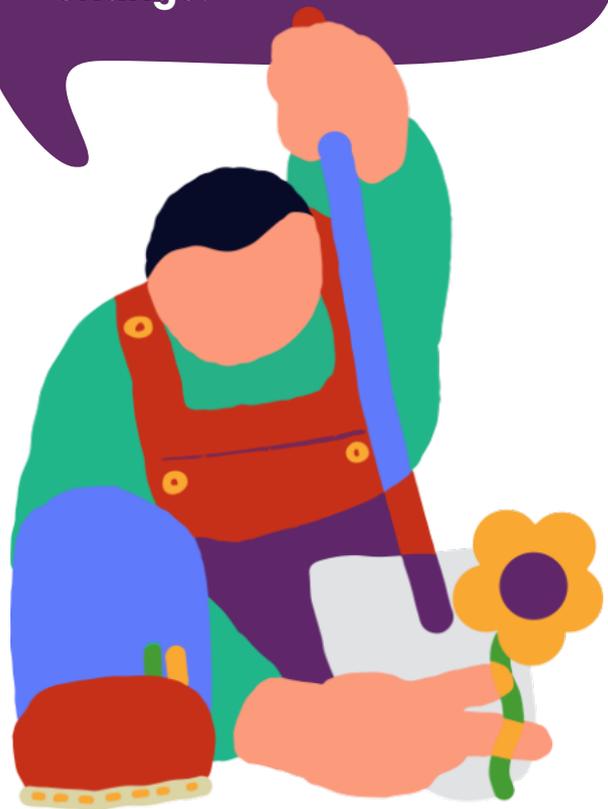
You can also use the power of your money. Look to buy from companies who care about their workers and the environment and are committed to cutting emissions. The most vulnerable can be found in all societies wherever they are in the world.

What you do matters

As country leaders gather to talk about the climate, it's easy to feel that the solution is "for them to sort out".

However, there is much we can all do differently to reduce carbon emissions. COP27 marks a milestone in climate negotiations, but without individuals, a 1.5 °C is impossible. This report has shown a few places where we can all start. We set up Giki to help people take action on climate change.

An individual taking a step is progress. A community taking steps together is change.



Here's how you can get started with Giki Zero

- Head over to [Giki Zero](#) and find out 'What's your Number'. Your score to keep track of everything you're doing for the planet
- Commit to a step. It's time to act.
- Share with your friends, family and colleagues.

Your employee sustainability programme

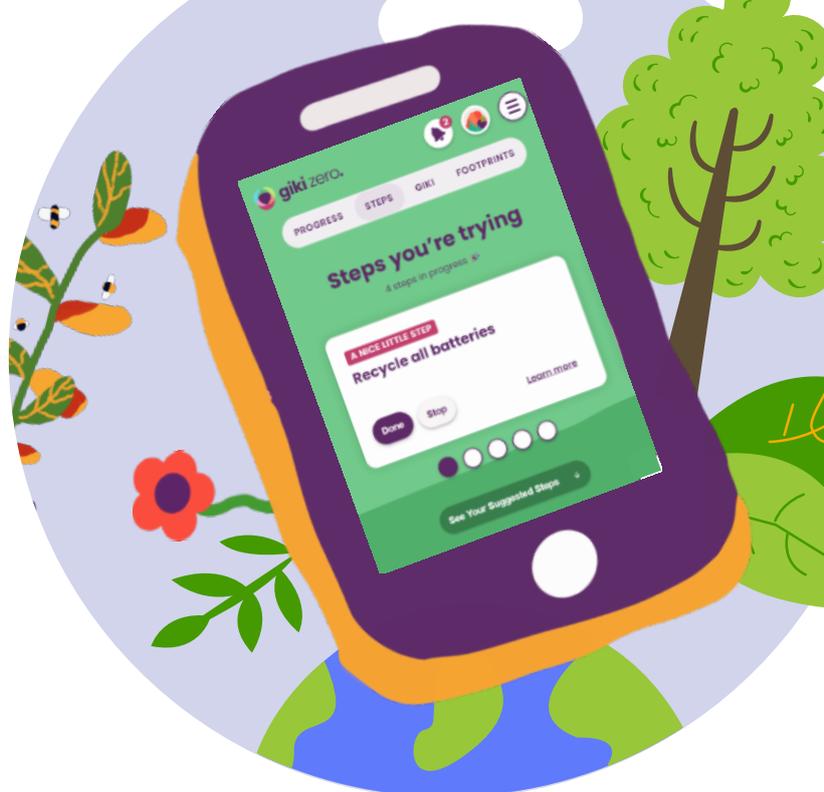
Giki Zero helps companies who want to educate and engage staff on sustainability and measure the impact of their actions.

[Book a demo](#)

Want to take action now?

Giki Zero helps you keep track of everything you're doing for the planet.

[Sign up for free](#)



Engage and educate your colleagues to make step changes at work and home to cut carbon and create a more engaged, happier, and sustainable environment.



from the authors

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