

# Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Climate change is becoming more and more of an issue in our day-to-day lives and was certainly a hot topic at our annual Harrogate Week show earlier this year. Take the freak snow storms the UK suffered during the month of February, would these have happened or have been as intense if we had thought about reducing our carbon footprints earlier? Many golf courses had to close for at least a week during this month, hitting hard the already diminishing pockets of clubs. With the 'recession' in full swing and adverse weather conditions becoming a more regular occurrence, surely it's time to take heed and start making some changes.

This supplement aims to open our eyes to the environment and offer advice and tips on how we can work together to help prevent climate change. Melissa Jones reports...

## What Is A Carbon Footprint?

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation etc.

The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

A carbon footprint is made up of the sum of two parts, the primary footprint (shown by the green slices of the pie chart below) and the secondary footprint (shown as the yellow slices).

1. The primary footprint is a measure of our direct emissions of CO<sup>2</sup> from the burning of fossil fuels including domestic energy consumption and transportation (e.g. car and plane). We have direct control of these.

2. The secondary footprint is a measure of the indirect CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from the whole lifecycle of products we use - those associated with their manufacture and eventual breakdown. To put it very simply - the more we buy the more emissions will be caused on our behalf.

Info taken from:  
www.carbonfootprint.com



## Curious As To The Size Of Your Carbon Footprint?

The following are a few of many websites that can calculate your carbon footprint:

- [www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx)
- [www.footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://www.footprint.wwf.org.uk)
- [www.whatsmycarbonfootprint.com/calculate.htm](http://www.whatsmycarbonfootprint.com/calculate.htm)
- [www.co2savings.co.uk](http://www.co2savings.co.uk)

**FACT:** Did you know...Electricity is one of the biggest producers of carbon emissions, so every time you make a coffee or turn the television on you are adding to global warming.

