Using Impact

Impact is an estimator of a community’s carbon footprint that works for parishes wards, district councils and unitary authorities.

It draws on more than 30 datasets to estimate the total amount of greenhouse gases produced directly and indirectly as a result of everyday human activities in the given locality - heating homes, using electricity, transport, producing and distributing food, disposing of waste, etc.

It presents this information in a visually engaging way that is easy to interpret and easy to share.

Impact has been designed to help you and your community to access, analyse and act on your community’s carbon footprint and to give you a better idea of where to target your efforts for the greatest impact in tackling the climate emergency.

**Carbon footprints**

The tool produces two different types of carbon footprint for each parish, ward or council area, which represent two different carbon accounting approaches:

**1. Consumption-based carbon footprint**

This shows the emissions produced as a result of what people within your parish, ward or council area use in their daily lives. This includes the obvious things like gas, electricity and petrol, but also products like food and drink, clothes, shoes, consumer electronics and appliances, as well as financial services, even where these emissions take place outside of the local area.

**2. Territorial-based carbon footprint**

This shows the emissions produced within the territorial boundaries of your parish, ward or council area, and is based on what happens in that space. So this includes emissions from the presence of roads or other transport systems, or local agriculture and manufacturing, whether or not local people were travelling on that road or use those products and services.

For a bit more detail on the difference between the two footprints, please see our [FAQs page](https://impact-tool.org.uk/faq#what-is-the-difference-between-a-territorial-and-consumption-based-footprint) on this link [Impact | Community carbon calculator (impact-tool.org.uk)](https://impact-tool.org.uk/using-impact)

We've put together two handy videos to help you get started.

See link for access to videos [Impact | Community carbon calculator (impact-tool.org.uk)](https://impact-tool.org.uk/using-impact)

If you already have a good understanding of carbon footprints, this video will show you the basics of how to use Impact.

And this video gives a more detailed explanation of how to use the tool, as well as explaining the differences between the two types of carbon footprint.