

CLC Taster Session

Slide 2: What is Carbon Literacy?

Slide 3: It's "an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce carbon emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis."

Carbon literacy enables us to:

To make change - by rapidly cutting emissions of greenhouse gases we can lessen the risks of dangerous climate change.

Knowing the consequences and the impact of our actions helps us direct effective action.

Within faiths there are strong motivations to care for Creation, those who don't have a faith maybe motivated by science, beliefs and values too.

It's an issue of social justice - across the world, we know there is disproportionate input to and impact of climate change.

Slide 4: This slide gives you a picture of the Carbon Cycle

Carbon is an essential element for all life forms on Earth. Whether these life forms take in carbon to help manufacture food or release carbon as part of respiration, the intake and output of carbon is a component of all plant and animal life.

Carbon is in a constant state of movement from place to place. It is stored in what are known as reservoirs, and it moves between these reservoirs through a variety of processes, including photosynthesis, burning fossil fuels, and simply releasing breath from the lungs. The movement of carbon from reservoir to reservoir is known as the carbon cycle.

Carbon can be stored in a variety of reservoirs, including plants and animals, which is why they are considered carbon life forms. Carbon is used by plants to build leaves and stems, which are then digested by animals and used for cellular growth. In the atmosphere, carbon is stored in the form of gases, such as carbon dioxide. It is also stored in oceans, captured by many types of marine organisms. Some organisms, such as clams or coral, use the carbon to form shells and skeletons. Most of the carbon on the planet is contained within rocks, minerals, and other sediment buried beneath the surface of the planet.

Slide 5: Everything has a carbon footprint. We need to understand the footprints of different activities to be able to take effective action to reduce carbon emissions – which is what needs to happen to tackle climate change. Mike Berners-Lee in *How Bad Are Bananas* explains that a Carbon Footprint measurement is a ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ total that takes into account all greenhouse gas emissions and presents that as a more easily understandable and comparable total.

Slide 6: As an introduction to carbon footprints we’re going to play a quick game of higher or lower

Slide 9: Which has the higher carbon footprint – a veggie burger or a cheeseburger?

Slide 10: Answer: a cheeseburger

Slide 11: Which has the higher carbon footprint – driving 10,000 miles or a return flight from London to Sydney?

Slide 12: Answer: equal.

Slide 13: When thinking about reducing carbon emissions – we need to consider the key areas for action globally – the 2010 data shows that these are the highest carbon-emitting sectors.

Slide 14: You have a direct impact on 40% of your carbon footprint. Through the choices you make, the products you buy, how you travel, what you eat. The other 60% requires strategic and infrastructure action from the Government and from industry, you can influence the 60% of your footprint by lobbying, campaigning, holding government and local councils to account, organising as communities and being informed.

Slide 15: Key areas for your 40% of carbon reduction actions are: Energy & Housing / Transport / Food / & Goods.

Slide 16: This quote is from a zero-waste chef and is focused on food....but it applies to Zero Carbon. What we need is lots of people taking action imperfectly. Starting today! What one action can you take today to lower your carbon footprint?

Could give examples: swap beef for chicken once a week. Go vegetarian for a month. Walk or cycle for journeys under 1 mile. Challenge yourself to buy nothing new for a week (absolutely nothing new, except food).

Slide 18: What one action can your community or faith community take today to lower the carbon footprint?