

Adverse consequences of climate change

- Biodiversity loss: On average, global populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles plunged by 69% between 1970 and 2018¹
- More extreme weather conditions
- Inland flooding caused by intense rainfall
- Polar and glacial ice melting, resulting in sea level rise and loss of inland water supplies
- Coastal flooding caused by sea level rise (threatens many large cities)
- Food and water insecurity
- Ocean acidification and ocean current changes (e.g, Gulf Stream weakens)
- Heat stress, droughts and wildfires
- Large scale migration and land conflict

Find out more about what action you can take at our website at southshropshireclimateaction.org

¹WWF and Zoological Society of London (ZSL)'s biennial [Living Planet Report 2022](#).



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CUTTING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Why it's in your (and everyone else's) interest to cut your carbon footprint

Background

The planet will survive, albeit with huge biodiversity loss, however severe the climate change, but that's not the case for human civilisation.

Climate change is a far greater threat to mankind than the current pandemic and, unlike Covid-19, there are no vaccines available; it cannot be stopped at national borders and affects, usually adversely, every living thing on Earth.



Climate change is shorthand for the results of the global temperature rise, currently about 1.2°C above a pre-industrial datum level, caused by the CO₂ emitted to the atmosphere by humans burning fossil fuels. In 2015, a binding international climate change treaty was signed which aimed to limiting global heating to well below 2.0°C above the datum, and preferably to 1.5°C, by reducing CO₂ emissions as soon as possible. However, in view of the extreme climate events and advances in climate science that have taken place since 2015, a realistic safe level is likely to be well below 1.5°C.

The concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere (the simplest way of monitoring climate change) has risen exponentially from the pre-industrial level of 280 parts per million (ppm), is now 420 ppm (October 2023 data) and shows no sign of levelling off. Cutting it back to the widely accepted safe level of

350 ppm will require a huge reduction in CO₂ emissions. Failure to do this quickly enough runs the risk of reaching tipping points after which it will no longer be possible to stop the global temperature increasing.

How this affects you, and everyone else

Everyone shares the global atmosphere, so it follows that if you cut your CO₂ emissions (commonly called your carbon footprint) not only will you reduce the climate change effect (albeit by only a minute amount) but the resulting reduction will benefit everyone else in the world as well. And if millions of others do the same the effect will be significant.

Many people are cutting their CO₂ emissions because it saves them money (e.g. by improving their household insulation), to leave a better world for

their descendants or just because they think they should, but the effect is the same – everyone benefits.

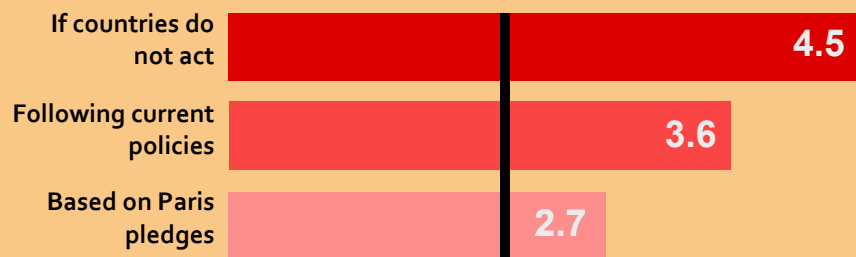
We are lucky in South Shropshire because, other than experiencing more severe storms, floods, heatwaves and perhaps wildfires, hotter weather isn't likely to be much of a problem for us in the next 10 years. However, people living in other parts of the UK, and the rest of the world, will suffer considerably.

Things you can do to cut your carbon footprint

- **Switch to 100% green electricity** - (<https://bigcleanswitch.org/>)
- **Make your house more energy efficient** (insulate more, use low energy lighting, exclude draughts, turn down house thermostats)
- **Make travel changes** (travel less, especially fly less; reduce car use; walk/cycle more; switch to hybrid/pure electric vehicles; shop locally)
- **Minimise waste** (re-use/repair/re-purpose; recycle, making use of Freegle/Freecycle/charity shops; buy/sell second-hand; compost organic waste)
- **Eat sustainably** (eat less animal-derived, more plant-based, food; eat locally grown food; buy/cook only what's needed; buy less packaged food; compost food waste)
- **If you have funds, install renewable energy equipment** (solar thermal, PV panels, a heat pump). A major expense, but long-term loans are available.

Average warming (°C) projected by 2100

2°C



Source: Climate Action Tracker, data compiled by Climate Analytics, ECOFYS, New Climate Institute and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Scientists have determined that if temperature rises surpass 2°C, this will lead to substantial and dangerous climate impacts, which will hit the world's poor in particular.

