

Video: Peter Harper explains the concept of the carbon footprint

I'm Peter Harper, my role has been that I've developed a carbon calculator for the use of OU undergraduate students studying environment.

The footprint metaphor is pinched from another kind of analysis, which is called ecological footprinting, in which, you know, you try to work out how much land is required for various kinds of human activities, and you add it all together, and then that gives you an area. So, this is like a, like a footprint.

And you could say that the world carbon footprint is all the emissions that we all, we all we all have. Okay, so now let's think all the emissions and all the people on the world, if you divide one by the other, then you get the average, the average footprint, which individual footprint, which you could say, is about six, six tonnes a year [*something like that,*] which is too much. Of course, it's not quite fair to say, Oh, we're all we're all average, because we're not obviously. So British people consume so much more than the average that they have a higher footprint.

Video: Peter Harper explains what is meant by net zero

Net Zero is just an acknowledgement that you can't get to zero, you just there are some things you just can't get rid of, you know, things in agriculture, and certain things in industry are very hard to get rid of. So you always end up with a little bit of emissions so if you're trying to get to zero, you've got to have some negative things as well that take CO₂ out of the atmosphere. And so the balance between the two will give you this net zero.