



ONE
PLANET
LIVING



One Planet Living:
An Agenda for Scotland



Every individual, every household, every business and, ultimately, every country consumes resources. The amount of resources we use to support our lifestyles can be measured, and is known as our **Ecological Footprint**. In Scotland, our footprint measures up at an average of 5.37 global ha¹.

If everyone in the world had this lifestyle, we would need three planets to survive.

We are using and polluting far more than our fair share of the world's resources, jeopardising the ability of others in the world to meet their needs, now and for future generations. This is unjust and unsustainable. We are already seeing the consequences of our impact on the natural systems that we depend upon and need to correct this, but it is not always clear how.

The solution is to move towards **One Planet Living**.

WWF Scotland is in the business of solutions and in order to move towards One Planet Living has developed the use of **Ecological Footprint** as a versatile tool to help us account for our use of resources. It enables us to identify where to reduce our impacts most effectively. There are increasingly sophisticated footprint software tools to inform decision making in government, business, schools, and for individuals. While the analysis can show which actions will be most effective, it is up to us to make the decisions.

The **Ecological Footprint** is based on an international standard² and should inform government so that policy is based on strong resource accounts. As a **key indicator** on sustainable development it could help inform progress and enable us to pay as much attention to the stocks and

flows of materials and energy as we do to the stocks and flows of money. After all, we can't become a more efficient economy unless we know what we use, what we waste, and where it comes from.

Scotland has tremendous potential to make significant steps towards One Planet Living in the next few years. The bottom line is that we need to **stabilise our Ecological Footprint by 2012³** and get on a path to reduction. This will put Scotland in a strong position for the future, locking in a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy, reducing our exposure to volatile markets, protecting jobs and improving quality of life for everyone in Scotland.

There is plenty that each of us can do to reduce our own footprint, but individuals can only get so far in reducing their footprint before some hurdles make it difficult to reduce any further. Government policies and practices can enable individuals to make even more of

1 A Global hectare is about the size of a football pitch

2 www.footprintnetwork.org

3 To be on track by the time World Summit on Sustainable Development nations have completed Sustainable Consumption and Production Plans and reported on them

One Planet Living is about addressing the choices and challenges we all face in achieving a high quality of life for everybody, within the resources of our planet.



a difference. Whether making it easy to recycle, take the bus, or buy fresh, local, seasonal and sustainable food – government can enable people to change their lifestyles and reduce their footprint.

The One Planet Living agenda for Scotland focuses on three areas where we have the best opportunities to achieve significant reductions in our footprint: food, transport and energy, plus the one area that needs immediate and urgent action on a national scale – climate change.

Climate Change:

It is clear we need to take serious and immediate action on climate change. The longer we leave it, the harder it will get to deal with the implications.⁴ Scotland has the opportunities to lead the way and benefit from being ahead of the game. We must act now.

Three actions government must take to tackle climate change:

- Deliver a minimum of 3 per cent year on year greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Set out a Scottish strategy for at least a 60 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Ensure that every pound of public money the enterprise network invests delivers carbon savings.

Energy: Our energy consumption makes up 22 per cent of our footprint. With a more efficient approach we could save money, reduce fuel poverty, reduce climate changing emissions and rule out a dirty, dangerous and expensive nuclear future once and for all.

Three actions government could take to reduce our energy footprint:

- Deliver ambitious energy efficiency targets for homes, offices and industry starting with a domestic aim for 20 per cent reductions by 2010 and a further 20 per cent by 2020.
- Put a permanent end to fuel poverty by investing in and developing the infrastructure and incentives to enable a micro-generation revolution and increase de-centralisation of energy.
- Set and deliver on at least a 60 per cent target of electricity to be produced from renewable energy by 2020 and targets for fuels and heat from renewable energy.

⁴ WWF is part of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition to campaign for serious action today.



Transport: Our transport use makes up 18 per cent of our footprint.

It would be reduced if we relied less on the car and used zero or low carbon means of moving around as far as possible. Walking and cycling for short journeys improves health and community interaction, and can reduce an individual travel footprint.

Three actions government could take to reduce our transport footprint:

- Ensure the transport strategy delivers stabilisation of carbon and traffic levels by 2020, linking public policy initiatives to CO₂ reduction.
- Invest in an integrated Scottish sustainable public transport network that gives every person in Scotland reasonable walking, cycling and public transport options.



- Stop subsidising air travel from Scotland with public money and work with UK government to ensure hidden public subsidies that support and promote aviation are removed.

Food: Our food consumption makes up 20 per cent of our footprint. Our food footprint could be reduced significantly, and our health improved if more of our food was local, seasonal and organic. We should also support fair trade and produce that meets certified standards of sustainability, e.g. on fish (Marine Stewardship Council) and palm oil (Palm Oil Round Table).

Three actions that government could take to reduce our food footprint:

- Legislate for and put into action public procurement policies that deliver good nutritional and sustainability standards.
- Promote and support certified sustainable food sources, for example, identify candidate Scottish fisheries for MSC, support them through the certification process and promote them.
- Design rural policies to direct support to local, seasonal, fresh, organic food production, processing and promotion in Scotland.

WWF Scotland is working with local and central government, businesses, communities, schools and individuals to move towards One Planet Living. For more information, contact: Jessica Pepper, WWF Scotland's Parliamentary Officer on 01350 728200 or jpepper@wwfscotland.org.uk

One Planet Living® is a joint initiative between WWF and BioRegional based on 10 guiding principles.

The mission of WWF is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- reducing pollution and wasteful consumption



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