



Burgers as a driver of climate change

Meat is one of the products that are driving the destruction of places like the Cerrado and the Amazon rainforest. The production kilogram of 1 kg of beef releases 36kg of greenhouse gas emissions. People in the UK now eat a total of 1 million tonnes of beef per year.

Use wwf.org.uk/learn/povertyandenvironment website and the words below to create a mapping diagram to explore the links between burgers and the environment.

Prepare a short presentation explaining how meat consumption is one of the drivers of climate change. Suggest how this problem could be resolved.

Soy grown to make feed for cows – it takes 16kg of feed to create every kg of meat	Energy used to freeze meat	Land cleared to grow soy
Energy from fossil fuels	Road made to transport farm produce to factory	Energy used to transport food
Energy used to cook food – fast food restaurants create about 1kg of CO2 emissions for each burger	Energy used to keep food fresh in shop or restaurant	Palm oil used in mayonnaise, ketchup and margarine.
Energy used to travel to and from shop or restaurant	Carbon released into atmosphere when forest cleared – deforestation accounts for 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions	Palm oil used in bio fuels as a greener alternative to petrol and diesel
Forest roads used by illegal loggers	Soy and palm oil sprayed with pesticides	Energy used by farms machinery



Loss of forest means less carbon absorbed from atmosphere	Land cleared to make cattle ranch	Forest roads used by illegal wildlife traders
Greenhouse gases released by waste food – UK families with children throw away 27% of their food	Energy used to create, transport and dispose of packaging	Energy used to grow and transport the bread, lettuce and tomatoes used in burgers
Energy used to take cattle to slaughterhouse	Greenhouse gases produced by cattle – worldwide livestock farming creates more CO ₂ than all of the world's transport	Energy used to turn beef into burgers
Renewable energy	Use water in meat and animal feed production – it takes about 20 000 litres of water to produce 1kg of meat	Energy used to get to work by farmers, factory, shop and restaurant workers travelling by car, bicycle, bus, train or on foot.
Forest and savannah cleared to grow palm oil	Trees die from drought caused by climate change	Soy used in burger.