

YOU CAN CARBON BALANCE YOUR CLUB BY 2030 AND WE MEAN BY HALF PAST EIGHT THIS EVENING!



Neutral Territory helped [Eight Ash Green](#) become the world's first carbon neutral cricket club by measuring, reducing and balancing its carbon emissions in 2014. The club has just submitted its figures for 2020 and in addition to baseline electricity and water, adapted brilliantly to play sixty matches last summer all within ECB Covid guidelines.

Achieving this is not as difficult as you might think. That's partly because they keep the scope fairly narrow i.e. ground and travel. More elements are being added as they evolve but you have to start somewhere. Here's a simple 'Cut Out & Keep' guide to how YOU can mitigate a season's carbon emissions for any small sports club.

MEASURE

UTILITIES

Find electricity bills for the year. Hopefully these aren't still being posted to a long-dead treasurer and you can access them online. Get the season-start and season-end meter readings as best you can. They don't have to tie up exactly with season or financial year, just enough to provide a realistic minimum estimate for the last 12 months. Repeat for water and gas or other utilities if appropriate. Even if you use 100% renewable sources, it still makes sense to offset.

TRAVEL

Download fixtures from your club or league website, usually as a .csv file. The person in charge of your web site will be able to do this if it's your own data. Contact the people who manage your league website if centralised. Key in by hand if neither.

Load these fixtures into a spreadsheet and add some columns for distance. Estimate the average distance your players travel to home games. To find the distance to away ones just ask the question in Google or any mapping software.

Once you've calculated total miles, estimate how many cars make the journey. At EAGCC they assume 10 per match which is an over-estimate in the senior section but nearer the mark for youth teams. They then split this using the government estimate for car size and engine type. This changes each year and we can provide this if you can't find it.

Date	Team	Opposition	Venue	Type	Miles To	Return	10 Cars	5 Cars
08-Sep-20	Chairman's XI	40 Club	home	y	7	14	140	70
26-Jul-20	North Essex 1st XI	Earls Colne	home	y	7	14	140	70
31-Jul-20	North Essex 1st XI	Rayleigh	home	y	7	14	140	70
02-Aug-20	North Essex 1st XI	Boxted	home	y	7	14	140	70
09-Aug-20	North Essex 1st XI	Horkesley	home	y	7	14	140	70
16-Aug-20	North Essex 1st XI	Maldon III	away	y	21	42	420	210
19-Aug-20	North Essex 1st XI	Police Vets	home	y	7	14	140	70
23-Aug-20	North Essex 1st XI	Mistley CC	away	y	9	18	180	90
30-Aug-20	North Essex 1st XI	Boxted	away	y	5	10	100	50
06-Sep-20	North Essex 1st XI	Sudbury II / III	away	y	16	32	320	160
13-Sep-20	North Essex 1st XI	Dulwich Lawnmower	home	y	7	14	140	70
20-Sep-20	North Essex 1st XI	Chappel & Wakes Colne	away	y	9	18	180	90
18-Jul-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Eight Ash Green	home	y	7	14	140	70
25-Jul-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Kelvedon & Feering II	home	y	7	14	140	70
08-Aug-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Abberton & District	away	y	6	12	120	60
15-Aug-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Maldon II	home	y	7	14	140	70
22-Aug-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Abberton & District	home	y	7	14	140	70
29-Aug-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Sudbury II / III	away	y	16	32	320	160
05-Sep-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Great Bromley	away	y	5	10	100	50
12-Sep-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Dulwich Lawnmower	home	y	7	14	140	70
19-Sep-20	Two Counties 1st XI	Sudbury II / III	home	y	7	14	140	70
18-Jul-20	XI	Eight Ash Green	home	y	7	14	140	70
25-Jul-20	XI	Kelvedon & Feering III	away	y	5	10	100	50
01-Aug-20	XI	Chappel & Wakes Colne I	home	y	7	14	140	70
08-Aug-20	XI	Witham III	home	y	7	14	140	70
15-Aug-20	XI	West Bergholt II	away	y	5	10	100	50
22-Aug-20	XI	Coggeshall III	away	Airfield	10	20	200	100

Fixtures and distance travelled table

EIGHT ASH GREEN CRICKET CLUB CARBON CALCULATIONS 2020				
Travel - CARS				
Small Car	Fuel	Miles		
	Petrol	3,501		
	Diesel	563		
	Hybrid			
Medium Car	Petrol	1,778		
	Diesel	2,575		
	Hybrid			
	Unknown			
Large Car	Petrol	278		
	Diesel	885		
	Hybrid			
	Unknown			
Total Mileage				
		Petrol	5,556	
		Diesel	4,024	
		TOTAL	9,580	
Energy and Fuel Consumption - Electricity				
Premises		Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Head Office				1,022
Water Consumption				
Premises		Unit		Annually
Head Office		Cubic Meters		100

This is how we split our transport mileage

The whole process takes about an hour. That's because they've done it before and it will you take longer to start with. But there's no reason why EVERY club can't do this.

The barriers to accessing utility usage and mileage aren't that great, but we're looking at ways to make it even simpler by automating at utility company or league fixture level.

In the meantime, all your club needs is 'Carbon Champion' with a laptop and a sponsor who understands that there aren't many better ways to spend their money.

BALANCE

EAGCC then enter their numbers into a spreadsheet provided by the [World Land Trust](#) (WLT) and return it to them with supporting evidence e.g. utility bills. WLT carefully evaluate their findings then enter them into their system which tells them how much carbon they have emitted and how much it will cost to balance it in the most eco-diverse way. As the club's Sustainability Sponsor Neutral Territory pays this, and EAGCC is Carbon Balanced for another year.

CARBON BALANCED AUDIT - UTILITIES

Organisation Name: Eight Ash Green Cricket Club
Audit Period: 1 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2020

Electricity		Option A: Direct Consumption	Estimated Consumption
Audit Category	Location Name	Electricity consumption (kWh)	Floor area (m ²)
Other	Club Pavilion	1022.00	

Water		Option A: Direct Consumption (cubic metres or million litres)
Audit Category	Location Name	Water consumption (cubic metres)
Other	Club Pavilion	100.00

Entering utility usage

CARBON BALANCED AUDIT - CARS

Organisation Name: Eight Ash Green Cricket Club
Audit Period: 1 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2020

			Option A	
Traveller or Booking reference	Vehicle type/engine size	Fuel	Distance per single journey	Units (miles/km)
Cricket Fixtures	Small Petrol Car or Other (excl. diesel) < 1.4-litres			3500.00
Cricket Fixtures	Small Diesel Car only < 1.7-litres			563.00
Cricket Fixtures	Medium Petrol or Other (excl. diesel) from 1.4 to 2.0-litres			1778.00
Cricket Fixtures	Medium Diesel Car only - from 1.7 litre to 2.0-litres			2575.00
Cricket Fixtures	Large Car - Petrol, Diesel or Other > 2.0-litres			1163.00

Entering transport estimates

REDUCE

But that's not all. It's not enough to simply Measure and Balance, it's essential we do everything they can to Reduce carbon use too. Balancing should only be used as a last resort to offset unavoidable carbon emissions.

At EAGCC, 80% of emissions are due to transport so they need to car-share more, encourage the move electric vehicles or pressure the leagues to organise divisions geographically. Ground emissions are only 20% and they've done all they can to reduce these in the past decade. A pavilion refurbishment project will re-visit this and look at storing grey water and other innovations.

It's hard to compare year-on-year emissions as teams, fixtures, weather and of course pandemics can dramatically alter club activity and subsequent emissions. EAGCC's figures have been similar at about 7 tonnes per annum with a balance cost of about £100. It's not much as they don't have heating or cooling costs. What will be more useful is to compare their figures with similar clubs and learn from each other. *This is coming soon – watch this space!*

WHAT NEXT?

We're helping EAGCC develop this further in two ways: Detail and Scope. To get more Detail we might record exactly how many vehicles and of what type are used for each match. It's a bit of a slog, but this can be done by a 'Carbon Champion' in each team. Making it fun by competing to become the club's lowest carbon team can work here. New types of calculations proposed include equipment, teas and grounds materials and can be retrospectively applied.

Scope means using technology. It is straightforward for league management software to automatically calculate fixture distance travelled. If typical car composition could be agreed, carbon can be estimated and calculated too. And if utility companies provided access to club data, then a complete carbon footprint could be provided. All that's needed then is for the WLT Balancing invoice to be sent to the club or their sponsor. *Annually, automatically.*

The only risk, and it's a big one, is that this makes activity to Reduce emissions seem redundant. If balancing payments were made mandatory by national bodies or leagues, penalties could be added if no evidence was provided to show reduction efforts. Doubtless sponsors who underwrite profligate clubs will have something to say too.

In the meantime Neutral Territory is happy to help you make your club carbon neutral. And well before 2030 however you measure it. Just contact us at [Neutral Territory](#), we'll be finished in time for Strictly!