

Tearfund Calculating Pembrokeshire's Global Impact

1. Tearfund are urging the people of Pembrokeshire to think in a new way about their carbon footprints, by introducing online resource ***My Global Impact***.

Through the resource, Tearfund is enabling people to work out the amount of carbon dioxide they are emitting, pledge to reduce their carbon footprint as far as possible, and support development projects that will help poor communities adapt to the ravages of climate change.

'We all have a global impact and as Christians we have a responsibility to care for our planet and our poorest neighbours, says Sharron Hardwick, Pembrokeshire's Media Officer for Tearfund.

'***My Global Impact*** helps you to calculate how much carbon dioxide you emit, find ways to reduce it and then share what you have to protect poor people from the devastating impacts of climate change', she adds.

The Climate Change Bill has reached the House of Commons for its final stage in Parliament before it becomes law. The Bill sets out a framework for the UK to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. Tearfund believes the Bill is not yet tough enough to ensure the UK plays its part in tackling climate change. The current emissions reduction target is 60 per cent but at least 80 per cent cuts are needed by 2050. The UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions also need to be included especially aviation which is one of the fastest growing source of emissions in the UK.

'We believe the UK must make our fair share of the international effort needed to prevent average global temperature rises exceeding 2°C. To achieve this, the Bill needs to commit to total emissions cuts of at least 80 per cent on 1990 levels by 2050 (which means reducing UK emissions by at least 3 per cent each year). Including the UK's share of international aviation and shipping in the Bill's targets.' states Tearfund's Briefing on the Climate Change Bill issued this month.

Tearfund encourages Pembrokeshire people to take action, transforming our carbon footprints to ones that walk alongside poor people - not over them.

Tearfund's simple ***My Global Impact*** calculator reveals whether your lifestyle is producing more than your fair share of climate-changing carbon dioxide, gives advice on how to reduce your emissions by as much as possible and gives you the opportunity to support projects helping poor communities adapt to climate change.

Projects supported will help poor communities adapt to the challenges of climate change with help on harnessing rainwater to irrigate crops and provide drinking water as well as training in new farming methods where rains have been erratic. Pembrokeshire's support will bring practical and spiritual transformation to the people who need it most.

'We can react in two ways; we can carry on regardless or we can take action. I urge the People of Pembrokeshire to continue in their support and take part in ***My Global Impact***., says Sharon.

You can also join Tearfund's Climate Change Campaign, to make sure poor people aren't the only ones paying for our carbon emissions. Together we can make a difference,' she concludes.

To find out more visit: www.tearfund.org

