

CALCULATING OUR CLUB MEETINGS' CARBON FOOTPRINT - 25TH OCT.

2022

It's a fact that our Club meetings cause carbon dioxide emissions.

So, how do we *calculate* our Club's carbon emissions?

We are going to use **ESRAG Oceania's Carbon Emissions Calculator**. And for those who may not know, ESRAG stands for Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group.

I am collecting data from tonight's meeting, which include:

1. The average attendees per meeting is 21.
2. The no. of meetings at this venue per year is approx. 40.
3. The size of the Clematis meeting-room where we usually meet is 60 sq. mts.
4. The meeting duration is 2hrs.
5. The no. of meals – Hayley will provide me with this information later.
6. Drinks and beverages – Hayley and I will estimate these.
7. Travel by car – you and Google Maps have provided me with the kms. you travel to meetings, and I will tally these up.
8. Travel by Public Transport, I think is non-existent.

The next step is to complete the input documentation and send it to ESRAG, who will process the information, through the calculator, and send a report back.

Once our Club's footprint has been calculated, we can consider ways to reduce our carbon emissions, such as by:

- Looking at our menu – but it's pretty good now as it already contains fish, chicken and vegetarian meals. But there's no judgement as some members need to eat red meat for health reasons.
- Instead of having "Burnt Chop", we can have "Burnt Pizza" as we did in January at Tina's.
- We could share rides more often, and, those living close by could possibly cycle or walk during Daylight Saving Time.
- Using public transport is not very likely given where we live.
- We already have hybrid meetings, enabling distant members and speakers to Zoom in.
- Finally, we could reduce heating and air-conditioning.

First we make reductions where we can, and **then there is the possibility of offsetting our Club's carbon emissions**.

Ways to offset our emissions include:

- Payment to a commercial carbon offset plan; I do not know what the cost would be at this stage however.
- Supporting accredited programs where carbon credits are issued.
- Payment to an accredited ESRAG-organised project.
- Non-accredited programs where carbon sequestration is estimated.
- Or we may wish to plant trees and shrubs increasing habitat and biodiversity, as well as sequestering carbon.

We would be looking at offsetting further down the track of course.

To conclude, Climate Change is occurring around us and it is serious, as we know all too well.

The science is convincing, and we need to act now if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

“Global Greenhouse Gas emissions must peak before 2025, and reduce by 43% by 2030, and by 81% by 2050”, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report in April this year - *if we are to avert climate catastrophe.*

Our daily activities, even in Rotary meetings, have an impact but we can make changes and make a positive difference.