

FAQ

Content

1. Environmental Footprints
2. Carbon Offsets
3. Reading Material
4. Lesson Plans

1. Environmental Footprints

What can I do to help make JALT conferences more environmentally friendly?

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please let us know. We are not experts and simple ideas often make a huge difference.

What is a carbon footprint?

The term ***carbon footprint***, therefore, is a shorthand to describe the best estimate that we can get of the full climate change impact of something. That something could be anything – an activity, an item, a lifestyle, a company, a country or even the whole world.(The Guardian)

What is a conference's carbon footprint?

A conference or events carbon footprint is calculated by looking at the environmental impacts of not only the conference but getting to and from it as well as transporting materials to the site.

How do we calculate a conference's footprint?

A lot of data is required which is collected from a variety of sources. JALT Central office is a great help with information from the venue including, area, air conditioning and trash. Information from registration includes the number of conference goers, home prefecture, how you travel and hotel rooms. Sometimes we need to estimate figures, the end of conference survey is a great help.

Why is the footprint given as CO₂, I thought there were many greenhouse gases?

I searched on the internet and saw several carbon footprint calculators, how do I know which one to use?

There are many sites however the figures for flying on this page are from My Climate's site

What is my flight's footprint from Tokyo to Niigata?

A flight from Tokyo to Niigata, a roundtrip of 500 km has a footprint of 0.234 tonnes of CO₂ per passenger.

I don't live in Tokyo, what are the amounts from other areas?

You can see amounts from other areas on this link.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rZ4laACZlcCWP1jWput0sA0aqqYFLUar7IIJOrGrGZw/edit?usp=sharing>

Is my footprint larger if I fly from another country?

Yes, often a lot higher, you can see examples on here

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XF2c3psVKGB4y3lZAnYBasnYhuQFzTs6NDT2Blm3UNo/edit?usp=sharing>

Are there any sites for other footprints?

Yes, you can look at a variety of footprints.

Food

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459714>

Can we really make a difference?

This article gives some advice for reducing carbon footprints

https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2019/04/18/12-scholars-share-ideas-reducing-carbon-emissions-academic-travel-opinion?fbclid=IwAR2opUizDfktzes5FLItRXqt5ionM_oaSGVLUca6sgVRhAPNOdaTPBhsfgU

2. Carbon Offsets

What is a carbon offset?

How do we know the money is going to a genuine project?

When selecting a project, we try to ensure that it is certified and if possible have some educational content.

What do you mean when you say certified?

There are several Internationally recognized certification for carbon offset projects.
<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/offsetstandards.html>

Isn't carbon offsetting an easy way out?

In a way yes, offsetting should be a last resort. Conference organizers should take measures to make conferences as environmentally friendly as possible but carbon offsets play a part.

Can I donate to another project?

If you see another project you like, please donate to it. However, if possible, could you let the organizers know as it will help us with our carbon footprint calculations?

3. Reading Material

Can you recommend any media articles to read about our responsibility to the environment?

Yes, there are many articles, however the Guardian covers the climate breakdown regularly.

Example

As an academic, should I worry about my conference carbon footprint?

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jun/11/as-academics-should-we-worry-about-our-conference-carbon-footprint?fbclid=IwAR2DkkgIAuKnUAR8IAEpNN5Y3cXcfo2wFoQluJqDZxWtR8VLWAI0hmapk2U>

4. Lesson Plans

I would like to teach about the environment, however I don't know where to find lesson plans.

There many examples on the internet including:

EFL Footprint <https://eltfootprint.uk/>

British Council

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/topics/climate-change/term>

ELT Sustainable

<https://eltsustainable.com/environment-english-lessons-for-every-month-of-the-year/>

Language Teaching for the Planet

<https://eltsustainable.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/language-teaching-for-the-planet.pdf>

Are lesson plans available in other languages?

References

My climate carbon calculator

https://co2.myclimate.org/en/offset_further_emissions

Carbon footprint

