

Household Carbon Budgets group – initial report.

A far-reaching discussion which touched on virtually every aspect of greenhouse gas emissions. The toughest part: trying to focus on effective small steps to reduce your carbon footprint, and not be mesmerized by the big picture.

The pink elephant in the room:

Half of NZ's greenhouse gas emissions are from the agricultural sector ("There are two sacred cows in NZ – one has four legs, the other four wheels..."). Eating less meat is potentially the easiest and most effective step any Lytteltonian can make.

Objectives fell into two broad categories:

**Education: What we could do...**

- Equip people with a mental "tool box" to enable them to make informed climate-friendly decisions and not be swept away by the suspect logic of a 'greenwash'.
- Emphasise the potential financial gain of reducing your carbon footprint.
- Energy audit Lyttelton houses (Gold, Silver, Bronze awards? Interest free loans from the Lyttelton Bank to upgrade?)

**Legislation: What we should do....**

- Compulsory "country of origin" labelling on all food (about half of which NZ imports).
- Carbon tax.
- No public transport fare increases.

**Action list:** (in brackets – people responsible)

What exactly is the average annual personal greenhouse gas emissions for NZ in CO<sub>2</sub> units? (Geography students)

According to the IPCC at what rate does this need to contract – i.e. what should this figure be for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 etc... (Geography students).

Which carbon footprint monitor is the best (most accurate, easiest to use, accessible) – (Geography students)

**What we would do...**

Survey attitudes to behavioural change motivated by climate issues in Lyttelton. Where do the barriers lie? What are people really prepared to do? (Geography students as part of their wider survey)

**What we could do...**

Create a visual "menu" of tasty options to reduce your carbon footprint. Portion sizes will reflect annual CO<sub>2</sub> (or equivalent) savings. Each portion will include a figure for CO<sub>2</sub>

saved and the \$\$\$ saved (e.g. going vegetarian) or costs incurred (e.g. insulating your ceiling space with wool). This information, presented in a simple visual format, will enable people to chose those things which

- a) are most effective
  - b) best fit their budget
  - c) they might actually do...
- (Sam and Geography students)