



## Thank you for your tree pledge!

This will provide habitats for wildlife and help offset carbon emissions, which in turn helps to slow down climate change.

Over the past two decades the effect of climate change / global warming has become more marked. Evidence shows that most of this warming has been caused by human activities - that is to say we have altered the chemical composition of the atmosphere through a build up of greenhouse gases – primarily carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

Greenhouse gas emissions have increased dramatically since the start of the industrial revolution, as more fossil fuels have been burnt for domestic, transportation and industrial purposes. When fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas are burnt, the carbon in them combines with oxygen in the air to produce carbon dioxide.

### **What if we do nothing?**

Rising global temperatures will cause sea levels to rise and alter local climate conditions, affecting forests, crop yields, and water supplies. It may also affect human health, animals, and many types of ecosystems. Deserts may expand and some of our countryside may be permanently altered.

### **What can we do?**

Firstly we should all try and reduce our own personal carbon footprints, through using less fossil fuels.

Secondly, we can sequester (i.e. absorb) the atmospheric carbon as part of the process of photosynthesis of trees and plants, which enables them to grow. Through this process, carbon dioxide is converted into stored carbon, and this is why trees are sometimes referred to as 'carbon sinks'. By taking this carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, trees clean the air, and offset our polluting lifestyles.

Each tree planted 'offsets' your environmental impact by 'breathing' in about 730 kg CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over its lifetime. It is estimated that the average person needs to save about 7,000kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. So planting just 10 trees each year is one strategy for achieving this. The trees also provide sustainable habitat for wildlife and will enhance the natural landscape with native broad-leaved trees.

### **Where are the trees planted?**

The vast majority of Carbon Footprint / Tree Appeal trees will be planted in low-profile surroundings. With the help of our tree planting partners and their local environmental knowledge, these native broad-leaved trees will be found homes where they are most needed; supplementing hedgerows, woodlands and nature reserves; alongside our highways, rivers and farmland.

John Buckley  
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