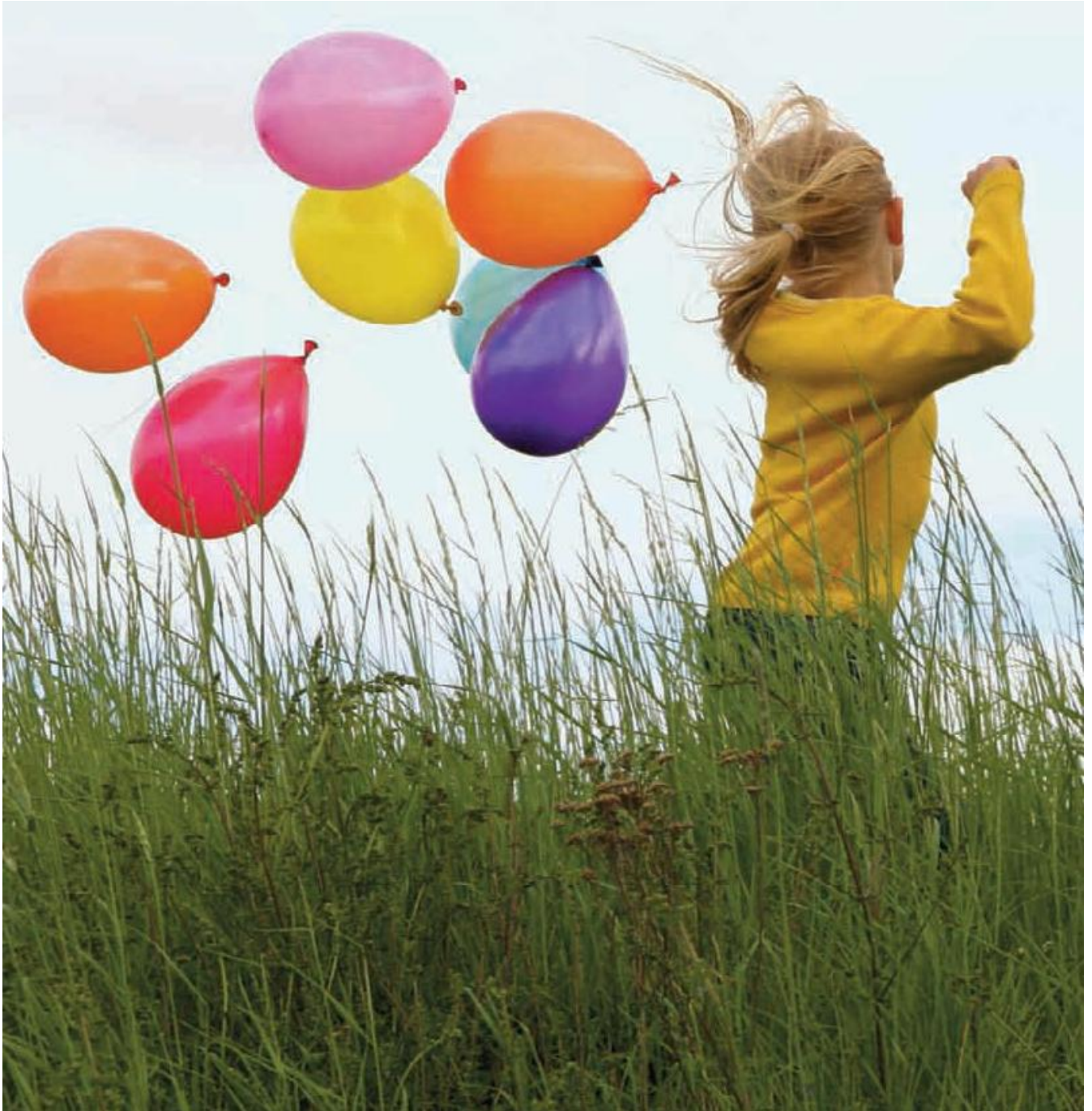




# CARBON NEUTRAL CERTIFICATION



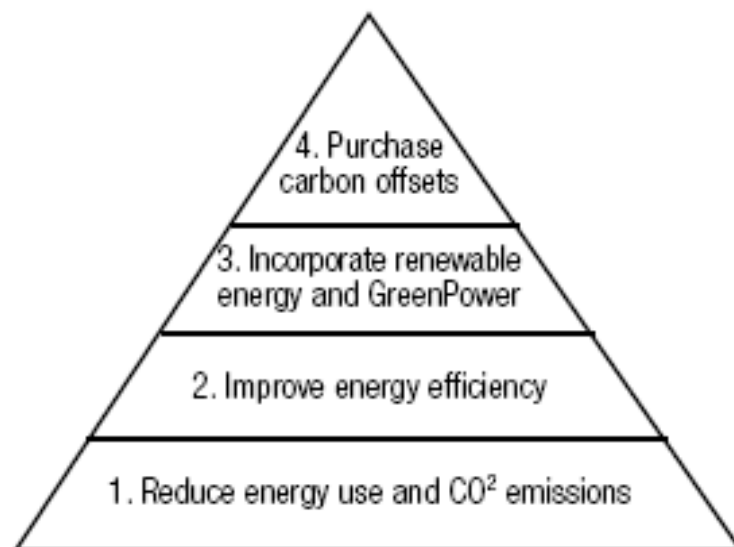


## Carbon Neutral

The term 'carbon neutral' aims to balance the overall amount of CO<sub>2</sub> being emitted into the atmosphere, by calculating how much CO<sub>2</sub> is being emitted from an activity and reducing the equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in another activity. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a naturally occurring gas in the atmosphere. Before the industrial revolution CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere were consistently between 260 and 280 parts per million (ppm). Since the industrial revolution human society has become increasingly dependent on burning the fossil fuels of coal and oil and as a result human activities have increased the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere to more than 380ppm.

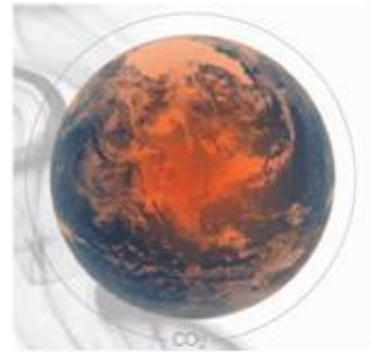
Although CO<sub>2</sub> is a small part of the atmosphere's composition it plays a major role in creating the greenhouse effect, which enables the atmosphere to trap solar energy and make the planet hospitable to life as we know it. Increased levels of CO<sub>2</sub> have been shown to relate to global warming and climate change, and while reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to pre-industrial levels is considered difficult to achieve, any reduction is likely to help slow down climate change and every householder can contribute.

The goal of becoming carbon neutral may be achieved by carbon offsets. By purchasing offset credits that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by an amount equal to that being produced, the overall amount of CO<sub>2</sub> being emitted into the atmosphere can be effectively zero, hence carbon neutral.





**Activities that we think of as quite ordinary, like driving a car or using electricity continue to contribute to the release of CO<sub>2</sub>.**



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### **Who's going carbon Neutral?**

A Compilation by Business for Social Responsibility

Companies, non-profits, government agencies, individuals and even cities are claiming to be -- or announcing their intent to become -- carbon neutral. With the number of such claims growing rapidly in both number and type, GCAS is promoting awareness with our member companies to ensure that business voices are incorporated into emerging efforts to set guidelines for "carbon neutrality."

Some of the Organizations achieved Carbon Neutral Certification as their commitment towards social responsibility;





*HSBC, Barclays UK, British Sky Broadcasting, World Bank, Avis Europe, FIFA World Cup, Simmons & Simmons, Middlebury Coll. Ski Area, Bradford and Bingley, Green Mountain Power The Cliff House, Salesforce.com, Yakima, US Green Building Council, KPMG (Australia) NewsCorp, ST Microelectronics, Timberland ,Vancity, Nike, Marks & Spencer, REI, Interface etc.*

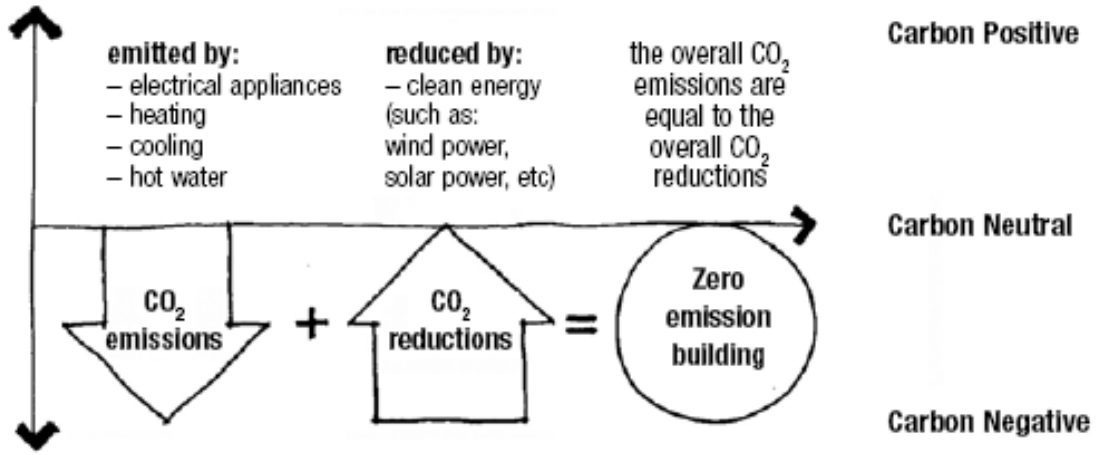
## **Becoming Carbon Neutral**

The first step in becoming carbon neutral is to reduce the demand for energy and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> being emitted. After reductions have been made offset credits can be purchased equivalent to the remaining emissions.

Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our organizations can be achieved by adopting many of the techniques and procedures described in the Technical Manual, eg.

- Reducing the use of electrical appliances and switching off lights, appliances and equipment at the plug when they are not needed – especially a second refrigerator.
- Selecting smaller energy efficient appliances with low standby power use and avoiding unnecessary purchases
- Reducing water use and reducing hot water heating by installing water efficient materials etc...





**Contact for more details  
about certification program**



### GCAS Quality Certifications

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[info@gcasquality.com](mailto:info@gcasquality.com)

