

# Carbon Partners project



A national pilot project to test a new model for international school partnerships.

The model uses carbon footprinting as a real and tangible example of global injustice and empowers students to make a difference.

*If you may be interested in joining the pilot, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Emily Clark at the Development Education Centre (South Yorkshire) to find out more.*

Telephone: 0114 2412756

Email: [emily@decsy.org.uk](mailto:emily@decsy.org.uk)

[www.carbonpartners.org.uk](http://www.carbonpartners.org.uk)

# What's the project about?

Many schools have links with schools in Africa but a focus on fundraising can sometimes reinforce negative stereotypes about Africans being "poor", "helpless" and "needy."



The **Carbon Partners** model turns the idea of fundraising "out of kindness" around by showing that, based on carbon usage, the UK school actually "owes" their African partner school!



*Images like this are what a lot of people think of when they think of Africa.*

## So how does it work?

Measuring the **carbon footprints** of the two schools gives students a framework to explore the contrasts between their lifestyles and a real example of global injustice (the countries with the smallest carbon footprints are often those that will suffer most from the impact of climate change).

The UK school then calculates their '**carbon debt**' – how much they owe for the extra CO<sub>2</sub> they are producing – and fundraising takes place in school to try and pay off this debt to the partner school.

*Just remind me again, what's a carbon footprint?*



*It's a measure of how much Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases you are putting into the atmosphere.*

# Linking to the Millennium Development Goals

*These are a set of 8 goals agreed by world leaders in the year 2000 to try and eradicate global poverty.*

The Carbon Debt that the UK school pays to their partner school will help them to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.



## *Key Messages of the project:*

- 1. UK schools have a responsibility to significantly reduce their carbon footprints.*
- 2. Learn more about international development issues, particularly those affecting people in your partner school.*
- 3. Ensure your school partnership is based on fairness, not on charity.*

Turn over to see a case study from one of the school partnerships.



# Case study

Aston Comprehensive School, South Yorkshire & Makunduchi Secondary School, Zanzibar, East Africa.



*Teacher Lindsey Burgin explains why they were keen to get involved in this project:*

*"Our partnership with Makunduchi Secondary School has been running for 20 years and we recognised instantly that the Carbon Partners model would be a fantastic way for us to develop the partnership further whilst linking in an exciting and innovative way to our curriculum."*

1. First, the schools calculated their carbon footprints:

Aston school  
**875kg** per student.



Makunduchi school  
**110kg** per student.



2. They then worked out their 'Carbon Debt'. This is based on the total number of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced above the Fair Earth Share. For Aston school this is £12,975 per year!

*There is more information about how the Carbon Debt is calculated and a tool to do the maths for you on the Carbon Partners website at [www.carbonpartners.org.uk](http://www.carbonpartners.org.uk)*

3. The project is co-ordinated in school by a student group which decides how to raise awareness of the key issues and actions to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

Links have been made to the Geography curriculum, looking at global climate change and the imperative of local action. Future plans include creating a Green Classroom, No Energy days and a video project with students from Makunduchi School.