

## **Highlands Council Challenges you to a carbon footprint duel!**

In our concern for climate change, Highlands Council would like to challenge your Council in a friendly competition to take the Municipal Survivor Climate Challenge to compare ecological footprints and to strive to take steps in daily life to reduce your Council's average footprint. Only council averages will be used for comparison, and no individual results will be made known. We'd also like councils to encourage their residents to take the challenge.

The calculator we have used is located at:

<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>

and takes only a few minutes to fill out. This tool gives the following data based on subjective inputs by individuals:

- How many earths would be required if everyone lived like that person
- The ecological footprint (how many hectares of land would be required)
- The carbon footprint (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>)

Highlands Council average figures are:

2.4 earths

4.14 hectares

6.94 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

Bragging rights go to the Council that:

- Starts with the lowest number of earths
- Has the largest reduction over a year
- Has the lowest number at the end of the year

And the fossil award goes to the council with the highest average.

The goals for this challenge are:

- to educate
- to engage Community and the region in a simple and fun way
- to invite informal community participation by expanding the survey to residents
- to attract media coverage
- to demonstrate community leadership in responding to the climate crisis
- to build local resilience
- to gain more support for climate policies and initiatives
- to empower individuals to take action