

Eco Footprint

Indicator

Ecological Footprint- global hectares per person (climate change indicator)

Status



No new data is available to inform this 2011 SoE update, so this indicator remains the same as in 2010.

Overview

The Ecological-Footprint is the work of the [Stockholm Environment Institute](#) as part of the Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP). It is a means of measuring how much environmental impact an area makes as a result of the people who live and work there. Globally, the eco footprint is 2.6 hectares per person (2.7 gha in 2004) while on average there is only 1.8 hectares of biologically productive ([Global Footprint Network](#), 2010) surface for each of us on Earth (the biocapacity). This means that the global ecological footprint is greater than the available productive land. This is called *overshoot* and is the result of the use of natural resources more quickly than they can replenish. Today, globally we use the equivalent of 1.4 planets annually to provide our resources and absorb our waste. This global overuse of resources has been around since the 1990's when global population reached over 5 billion. Prior to this, records indicate humanity's demand on resource was manageable.

The UK has a much larger footprint than the global average at 4.64 gha/capita from the latest available data (2006), well above the 1.6 gha/capita biocapacity. This has increased from 5.3ha/capita in 2004 and well above the European average of 4.5 ha/capita. The USA has one of the largest eco footprints (9.0gha/capita), overshooting their 4.4 gha/capita biocapacity by 4.6 gha/capita ([Global Footprint Network](#), 2010).

Performance

Table 1 indicates the latest eco footprint data comparing 2004 and 2006 data. The data indicates a reduction in the eco footprint for all Worcestershire districts and the county as a whole. This information is shown graphically in figure 1.

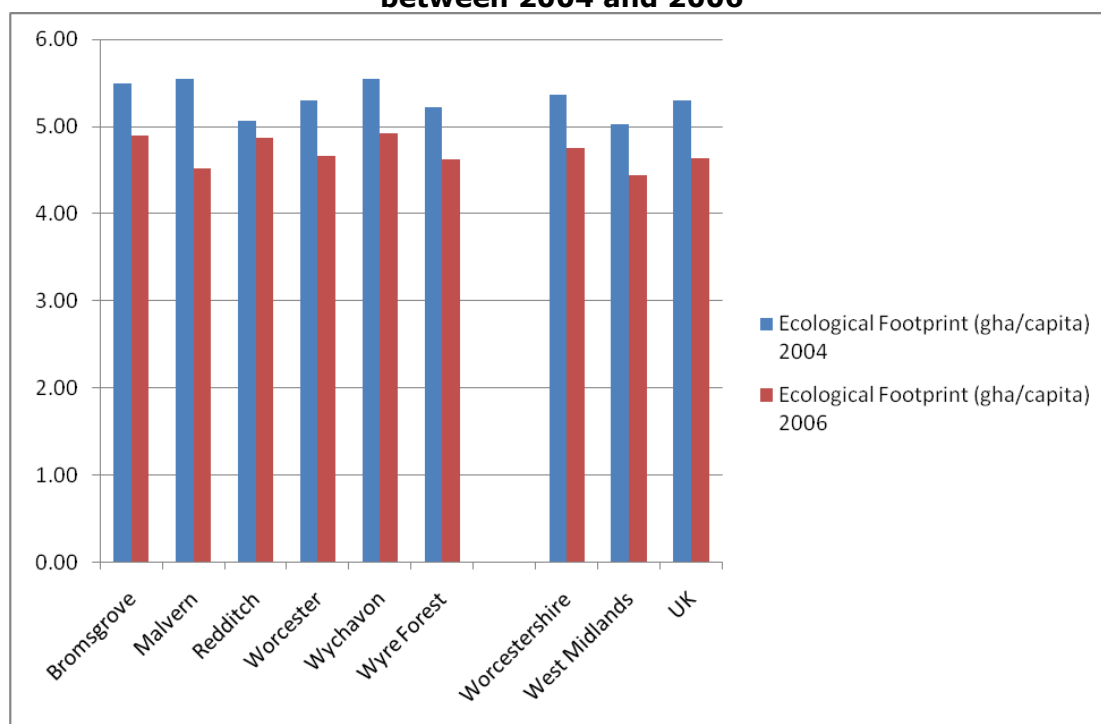
The 2004 data shows Malvern and Wychavon had the largest eco footprints, 5.54 gha/capita and 5.55 gha/capita respectively. Wychavon district still has the largest eco footprint in the county at 4.92 gha/capita despite a reduction of 0.63 gha/capita between 2004 and 2006 but the

Malvern eco footprint is now the lowest eco footprint in the county (4.52 gha/capita). The Worcestershire eco footprint is still above that for the West Midlands and the UK.

Table 1: Eco footprint for 2004 and 2006 for all Worcestershire districts compared with county, West Midlands and UK averages

Area	Ecological Footprint (gha/capita) 2004	Ecological Footprint (gha/capita) 2006
Bromsgrove	5.50	4.90
Malvern	5.54	4.52
Redditch	5.06	4.87
Worcester	5.30	4.66
Wychavon	5.55	4.92
Wyre Forest	5.22	4.62
Worcestershire	5.36	4.75
West Midlands	5.02	4.44
UK	5.30	4.64

Figure 1: Change in Worcestershire, West Midlands and UK eco footprints between 2004 and 2006



Geographical context

Worcestershire has a larger ecological footprint than the West Midlands and UK average. All Worcestershire districts individually have a larger ecological footprint than the West Midlands average of 4.44gha/capita. In

the West Midlands, Wychavon has the third largest eco footprint behind Stratford-upon-Avon (5.09 gha/capita) and Warwick (4.94 gha/capita). The smallest eco footprint in the West Midlands is Sandwell (4.05 gha/capita) which is 0.70 gha/capita lower than the eco footprint for Worcestershire.

Actions

Current actions to reduce resource use by Worcestershire residents include promotion of home energy efficiency through the [Warmer Worcestershire network](#). This project highlights heat loss from properties and provides advice on how to improve energy efficiency through measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation with the aim of reducing fuel poverty.

Projects to promote sustainable travel and reducing the amount of waste produced by households are continuing across Worcestershire.

The [Living for Tomorrow campaign](#) is a behaviour change campaign to encourage residents to take positive steps towards living more sustainably. Residents will be able to take part in a number of challenges focussed around topics such as waste, transport and energy.

[Transition towns](#) across Worcestershire are working towards reducing resource use in their local areas and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels.

Further information

Further information about the eco footprint and the work of the [Stockholm Environmental Institute](#) can be found via their web page.