

# The Time is Now

Climate Change Newsletter

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HSBC  
The world's local bank



## Transport

### You can't beat NATURE

Iceland's Volcano has played havoc to the aviation industry, but has it really been a blessing to help save our planet?



It must have been unpleasant for some and disappointing for others, but the volcano's ash cloud has probably helped us with cutting down on carbon emissions. Although volcanoes themselves emit carbon, the impact Volcano Eyjafjallajökull has had on the aviation industry has meant that most airports across Europe have had to be closed on a number of occasions, due to the ash cloud's danger to flying.

The carbon emissions saved from this natural disaster or blessing, has been an eye-opener to many travellers. According to geological analysts volcanoes do not emit that much carbon and the impact of this particular eruption will not be that great on a global scale. The flight ban and closing down of airspaces has resulted in a 2.8million tonne drop in carbon emissions, that's more than many developing countries' annual emissions.

Maybe this event will teach us two things:

- We cannot beat nature
- We must use other means of communication to save on flying

HSBC Bank was not affected much by the ash cloud, the use of video conferencing as a form of

communication to reduce the carbon footprint, has meant that when disasters happen, business can go on as usual.

### Wasn't life better when we used carts?

We live in a time, where life is fast, we are always on the go, rushing from one thing to another. If you were to ask anybody, they would probably say that they could not do without their car. No wonder there are many families in Malta who own two cars.

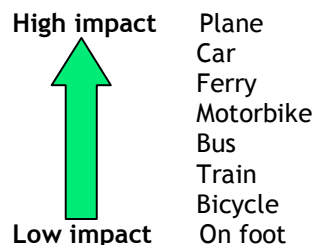
From a recent survey we know that currently there are 300,308 licensed cars in Malta. There are 400,000 people in Malta. Taking into account children, people who cannot or will not drive, these results seem to indicate that we have more cars than drivers - unbelievable!!

This is why it is important to make the right choices in life.

- I need a car - but do I need two?
- I might need to use a car to go to work but do I need it when instead I can go a five minute walk?
- Children need to go to school - but do they need a car to do so? Can they walk instead?

We are repeatedly faced with similar decisions every day. Making a choice about how we choose to travel will determine our carbon footprint.

Different ways for travelling have different impacts on our environment.



You can use this calculator to find what your carbon emissions are:

<http://www.carbonify.com/carbon-calculator.htm>



*One thing I can do...*

*Walk to your corner shop,  
it's good for the  
environment and good for  
your heart*

*When using a car  
remember this - Rwanda  
has 2 cars for every  
1000 people.  
Ethiopia, Madagascar  
and Nigeria have 1 car  
per 1000 people.*

*Malta is up there with  
the top dogs:  
Rating 5<sup>th</sup> with most  
cars per capita, not as  
much as the United  
States, but well ahead  
of Italy, Canada, Japan  
and the UK.*

*Having this privilege  
should come with the  
responsibility of using  
our cars wisely - our  
carbon emissions  
affect other people in  
the world.*

*Is it fair to use our  
cars irresponsibly and  
having others suffer  
from our actions?*



## What can I do?

### Transport

- Walk to school.
- Ride your bike to school.
- Walk to your corner shop.
- Never leave your car engine running, when sitting idle.
- Inflate your tyres regularly: flat tyres create a drag and use up more fuel.
- Use the bus more often wherever available.
- Walk home from work. It is an easy way to unwind and keep healthy.
- Buy an efficient ecofriendly car if you're buying a new car.
- Try not to use your car for short walking distance trips.
- Try to car pool as often as possible, when using a car is necessary.
- Use email or video conferencing for communicating - aeroplanes are the worst carbon emitters of transport.



### Related links

<http://othersiderainbow.blogspot.com/2009/08/how-many-cars-are-owned-per-capita.html>

<http://blog.dontbeapassenger.com/2010/04/23/volcano-decreases-carbon-emissions/>

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/climatechange/climatechangeandtransport>

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100419/local/more-than-300-000-cars-on-the-road>

Go Green  
Go Green



If you're thinking of going on holiday this summer, try choosing an eco-friendly holiday.

There are camping, biking and trekking holidays you can take. Also you can do plenty of walking on the Maltese Islands and our neighbouring island Sicily.

But whatever you choose to do this summer try to have a lesser impact on our planet.