



2019 club tour programme

Climate Care - Advice for Tour Leaders

1 Introduction

The [recent report](#) from the UN Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was stark: there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5 degC. Beyond this, the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people will significantly worsen.

The glaciers and snowfields of the world are early casualties.

The club is committed to reducing the impact of our activities on the climate and the environment generally. We strongly encourage members to make low carbon choices when they plan their travel (take a train, or share an economical car). Look at the [ESC website](#) for more details and travel suggestions.

Tour leaders are in a good position to encourage train travel and car sharing. Think of this when planning the meeting point.

Of course, many people will still find it convenient to fly to their tour. Please encourage your team, however they travel, to offset the effect by buying carbon credits (see the next section for details). Members can be encouraged to buy their credits individually, or an enthusiastic team member could do a single purchase for the whole team.

In previous years, we have asked Tour Leaders to collect the data for a Carbon Audit. We don't do this any more, for a couple of reasons:

- It was a very lightweight survey, and not terribly accurate. We could only improve it by making it more time consuming, and we didn't want to do this.
- In any case, doing an Audit and offsetting together produced confusing results.

So, for this year, please just encourage your team to buy carbon credits, either collectively or individually. And as always, this is entirely voluntary, for both leaders and members.

2 Purchasing carbon credits

We've tried to make it as simple as possible to purchase carbon credits for journeys to the Alps. There is a [page on the ESC website](#) that describes the ESC carbon credit scheme, buying carbon from the Cochabamba Project. It also sets out a notional tariff for journeys to the Alps, based on the average from the last Eagle Carbon Audit, for each mode of transport:

Return air flight and journey	0.5 tonnes for	£3.50
Return car journey	0.21 tonnes for	£1.50
Return rail or coach journey	0,04 tonnes for	25p

There is a link from this page direct to a purchasing page, and purchase can be made by credit or debit card. Please select the tour for which you are buying carbon from the drop down list on this page.

Obviously, the table above represents an average, and if you are flying to (say) Norway or Bucharest, you may wish to make your own estimate and buy carbon by the tonne. There is a good carbon calculator [linked from the ESC web site](#).

3 Making it happen

The club encourages members to participate in this scheme, but it is entirely voluntary. It is recognised that some members do not support the idea of buying carbon credits, for a variety of reasons, and others prefer to manage their environmental impact in their own way. There are probably some tour leaders included in that group, who would not wish to participate. If so, please contact me so that we can find an alternative way.

In any case, this is a job that can always be delegated to a tour member who is enthusiastic about the environment. It is also a job that can be completed beforehand. Barring last minute changes, travel plans are usually made well in advance, and the carbon purchase can be organised before the tour starts.

If the tour leader does the purchase, I have found it really convenient to make the purchase out of the deposits. There may then be a small refund due to those who have travelled by car or rail, payable as a few coins or even as a beer.

4 Questions and support

This priority will be communicated to members through the Newsletter, repeatedly through the season, to make it easier to persuade people to participate.

There is an [information sheet on the ESC carbon credit scheme](#) on the website, for members and leaders to read. If you have any other questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to ask me.

There is also a guide to [purchasing carbon credits](#).

*Steve Wright
Climate Care SC*

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