active youth

Tvariau.lt

EVENTS' CO$_2$ FOOTPRINT
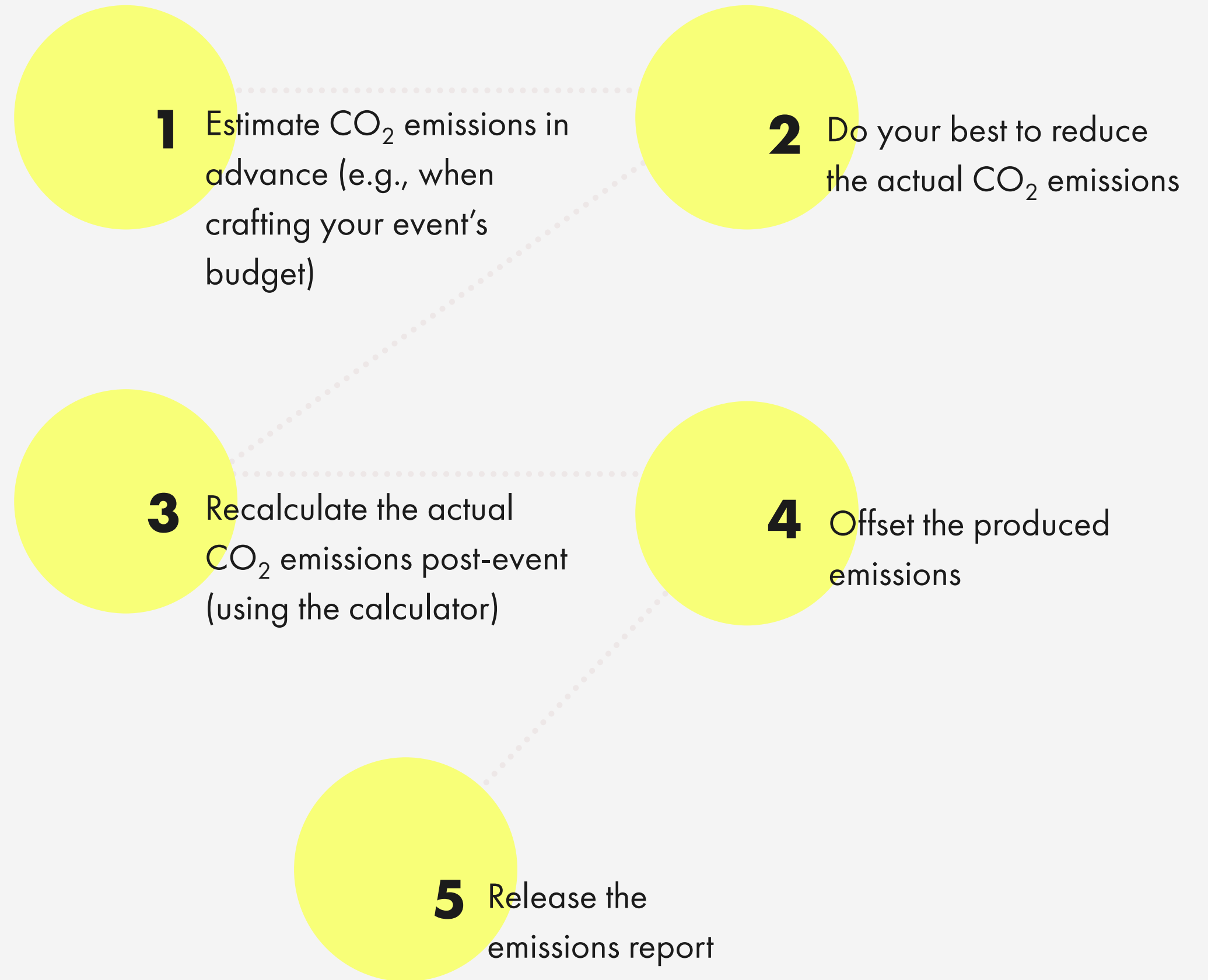
How to reduce it

What is CO$_2$ Footprint?

A measure of the impact your activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) produced[1]

In this guide, you'll learn what causes it (when organising events) & how to reduce that impact
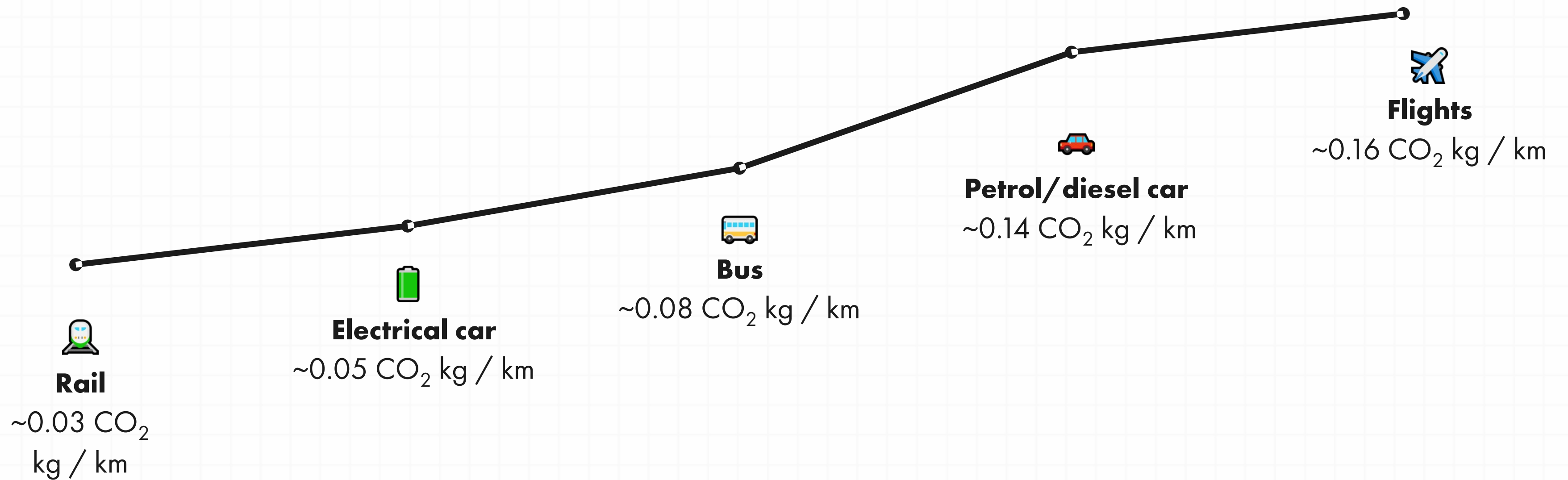
Contents
or what needs to be done

1 Estimate CO_2 emissions in advance (e.g., when crafting your event's budget)

2 Do your best to reduce the actual CO_2 emissions

3 Recalculate the actual CO_2 emissions post-event (using the calculator)

4 Offset the produced emissions

5 Release the emissions report

1. ESTIMATING CO$_2$ BEFORE THE EVENT

1.1 Travel of participants

Rail
~0.03 CO_2 kg / km

Electrical car
~0.05 CO_2 kg / km

Bus
~0.08 CO_2 kg / km

Petrol/diesel car
~0.14 CO_2 kg / km

Flights
~0.16 CO_2 kg / km

👉 **CO_2 emission = total km travelled * 0.16 kg (for ✈️)**
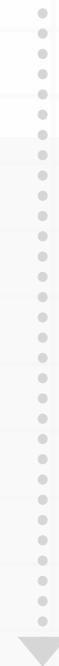
1.2. Energy

No heating / no AC:
total event hours * participants * ~0.52 CO_2 kg

With heating / AC:
total event hours * participants * ~0.6 CO_2 kg

Accommodation

~20 kg of CO_2 / person night

RECAP (1)

Estimated CO_2 emissions for an event =

✈️ transportation + ⚡ energy + 🛏️ accommodation

What to do with the estimate?

Plan your budget accordingly:

1 CO_2 tonne will **cost ~€6 to offset** via investments to certified

green projects[2]

2. REDUCING CO$_2$ EMISSIONS

2.1. Travel & transportation

- ☑ Encourage using trains and public transportation

- ☑ Encourage cycling for locals

- ☑ Organize shared rides

- ☑ Keep a short distance between each event venue

2.2. Accommodation & venues

- ✓ Choose eco-friendly hotels[3]

- ✓ Encourage guests to bring and use their own personal-care items

- ✓ Choose size appropriate venues

- ✓ Venues with good natural light

- ✓ Choose locations close to the city center

Recommended size of space

standing crowd	standing / seated (mixed) crowd	seated crowd
0.6 m² / person	0.9 m² / person	1.2 m² / person
60 m² for 100 pax	90 m² for 100 pax	120 m² for 100 pax

2.3. Catering

✓ Provide the participants with appropriately sized meals (~**700 calories / meal**)

✓ Avoid wasting food (e.g., food excess can be given away[4])

✓ Choose veggie option when available

✓ Encourage participants to bring their own water bottles & drink tap water (if allowed)

Type of food	Approx. CO_2 footprint per serving
🥦 Vegan meal	1 kg
🥗 Vegetarian meal	1 kg
🍲 Fish, chicken or pork meal	2 kg
🥩 Beef meal	3 kg
🍗 Lamb meal	8 kg

2.4. Stationary, gifts & other:

- ☑ Avoid printing out documents that can be provided electronically (e.g., by using QR codes)

- ☑ Ask participants for digital tickets, receipts, and invoices

- ☑ Choose recycled paper[5], ask the participants to bring their own stationary tools (e.g., pens)

3. CALCULATING ACTUAL CO$_2$ EMISSIONS (POST-EVENT)

🤖 **Use a special calculator**

Recommendation: **Tapaus.fi calculator**

How to use it?

There are 5 categories to count:

- Arrival CO_2
- Energy consumption
- Accommodation
- Catering
- Waste

See endnotes for full instruction[6]

4. HOW TO OFFSET CO$_2$

4.1. Supporting green projects

To support such projects, we recommend using one of the following platforms:

🖥 *Climate Neutral Now*
(UN official platform)

🖥 *Chooose.today*
(most-comprehensive offsetting platform)

How does it work?

In short, it's donating to a project that reduces our overall CO_2 footprint by 1000s of tonnes. E.g., by changing light bulbs for more efficient ones in the developing nations

Good practice:

ask the event's participants to pay a little extra (optionally) and support your offsetting effort

4.2. Planting trees[7]

Over a lifetime of 100 years, 1 tree could absorb around 1 tonne of CO$_2$

How to:

- Request permission (from local institutions) as early as possible
- When it's the time of the year to plant trees make sure to do that in small groups
  - Big groups = more CO$_2$ emitted

Recommendation:

Organise one tree-planting event for your total annual CO$_2$ footprint (rather than many separate ones after each event)

4.3. Reduce your CO$_2$ emission for the following year

How to:

- Read the key tips we've mentioned earlier
- Consult your teammates, plan how to emit less CO$_2$ at the start of a year and stick to the plan
- Track & report your CO$_2$ footprint
- Share your ideas for reducing CO$_2$ emissions with others

💁‍♂️ A pledge to cut your (organisation's) CO$_2$ emissions by x% annually = offsetting as well

5. REPORTING

Why is it important to report your CO_2 footprint:

- It's a good example to others
- It gives you a better understanding / overview of your sustainability
- It can help improve various processes in your organisation
- It can help your communication / marketing

📨 **Download report's template[8]**

RECAP (CRROP)

CRROP method:

Calculate the approx. CO_2 emissions before the event
Reduce the CO_2 emissions where possible
Recalculate the actual CO_2 emitted
Offset the CO_2 footprint
Publish a report

Ħ(CRROP) CHECKLIST

reduce events' CO_2

1. CALCULATE

- ☐ travel of participants
- ☐ energy
- ☐ accommodation

2. REDUCE

- ☐ transportation
- ☐ accommodation & energy
- ☐ catering
- ☐ stationary, gifts & other

3. RECALCULATE

- ☐ arrival
- ☐ energy
- ☐ accommodation
- ☐ catering
- ☐ waste

4-5. OFFSET & PUBLISH

- ☐ offset the calculated CO_2
- ☐ publish a report

☝️ REMEMBER:

the goal of calculating the CO_2 emissions is to reduce the total CO_2 footprint = help the planet

Endnotes

1. Definition of CO_2 footprint
2. Price to offset 1 tonne of CO_2 via Chooose.today
3. Green Globe certified hotels
4. How to reduce food waste
5. Recycled paper Q&A
6. Tapaus.fi calculator
7. Tree planting
8. Template for a CO_2 footprint report

💛 🌳