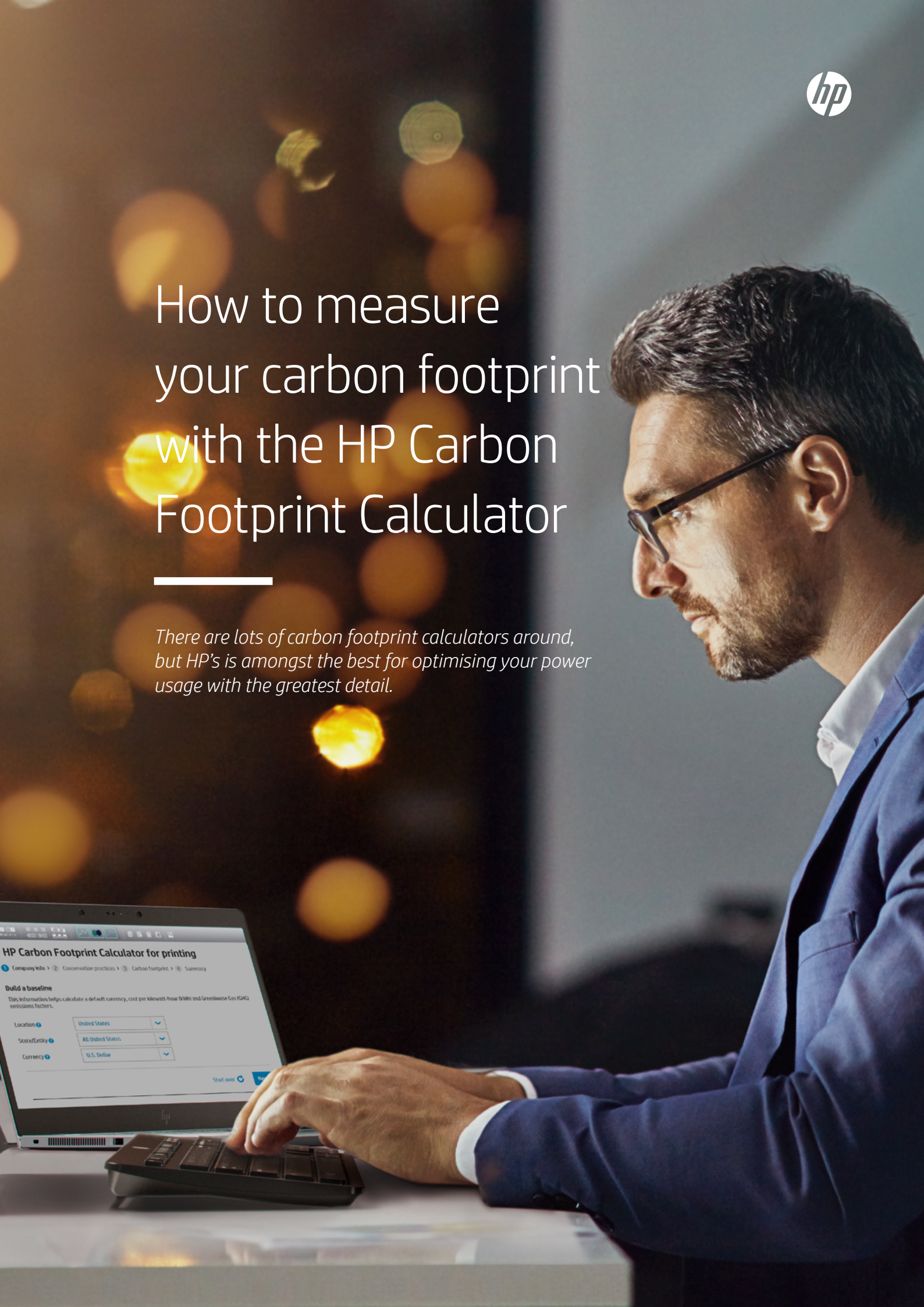
How to measure your carbon footprint with the HP Carbon Footprint Calculator

There are lots of carbon footprint calculators around, but HP's is amongst the best for optimising your power usage with the greatest detail.



Sustainability is one of the most important concepts to arrive over the last couple of decades.

Although green issues have been part of the conversation for much longer than that, sustainability didn't enter everyday language until the 1990s, and has only become a factor on the corporate agenda more recently. But now it's near the top of the list, and particularly important when purchasing and maintaining a fleet of computing devices. Luckily, HP has a tool, or rather two related tools, to help your business take its responsibilities seriously in this age of sustainability.

Desktops, Notebooks, Workstations, Thin Clients, Monitors, Point-of-Sales and Tablets

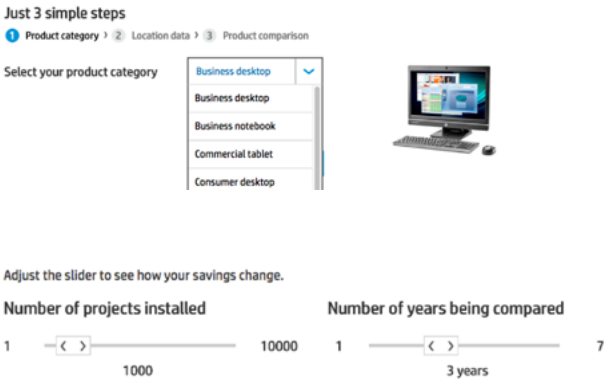
Optimize your home and business environment to reduce energy, carbon and costs.

Start

Much of the conversation now revolves around the concept of "carbon footprint." This combines all the potential greenhouse gas emissions caused by using a device and sums these up as an equivalent quantity of carbon dioxide. The actual gases involved could also include methane and nitrous oxide, amongst others, but are standardised to being expressed in terms of how much carbon dioxide would cause the same level of global warming.

Accurately calculating your carbon footprint for computing devices can be problematic because they use electricity rather than burning fossil fuels like a motor vehicle. There are lots of online calculators available that claim to work this out for you, but most are so general they don't tell you much more than what you already know – that reducing your carbon footprint is a good idea. They're not worth the effort. This is where HP's tool is different.

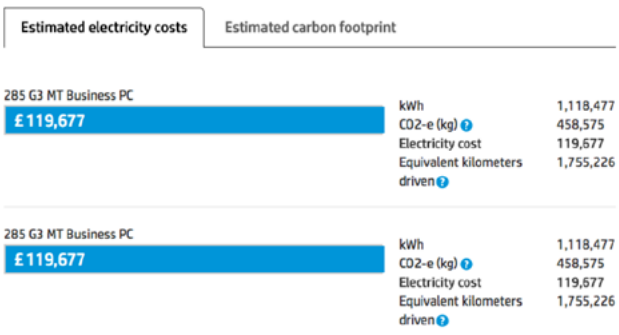
HP has been taking environmental issues seriously since the late 1960s and has had a consistent history of innovations that promote sustainability. The HP Carbon Footprint Calculator is the latest result of this focus on the environment, because HP wants every company to be concerned about sustainability issues. The tool is extremely easy to use and packed with insight on a range of different IT device types. It gives you the top-line facts and figures, but also helps you understand which variables affect your company's carbon footprint, giving you the knowledge, you need to reduce your company's levels.

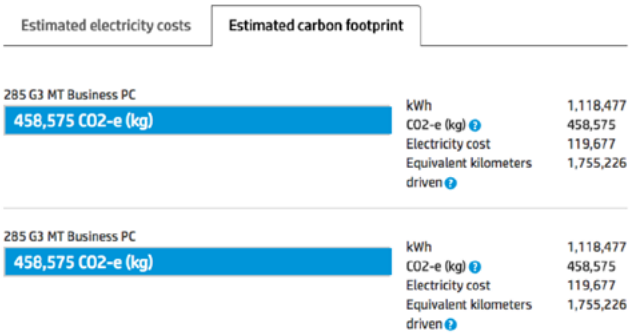


There is a huge range of variables to consider when calculating the everyday costs of your computing devices and their carbon footprint, however. Depending on your electricity supplier, usually it will have a variable mixture of sources that will imply a greenhouse gas emission factor in terms of CO2-e per kWh of electricity used. You can then use the annual power consumption of typical usage to calculate the carbon footprint per year. This is where HP's Carbon Footprint Calculator comes in. This handy online tool is split into two tracks, with one aimed at desktops, notebooks and other end-user devices. The other is aimed at printers.

Here's an overview of what they have to offer.

Let's look at what the HP Carbon Footprint Calculator can tell you about your end-user devices first. The above video walks you through the various features of this tool and how to use them. For consumer-grade desktops and notebooks, you can vary the number of hours per week based on your actual usage, how often the system gets turned off, how many times a week the system is used, and how long you intend to own it.





You can then see how much the system will cost in electricity as well as its carbon footprint, both with and without HP Power Management Technology enabled. As a handy way of getting your head around what this means in real terms, the carbon footprint is also expressed in terms of how far you would need to drive an average passenger vehicle to have the same impact on global warming.

If you select a business computing device, you can compare two different products to each other, but also see figures based on a fleet of up to 10,000 devices. As with consumer-grade devices, you can see the cost of electricity, carbon footprint, and equivalent travel distance in an average passenger car.

The second video guides you through using the printer portion of the HP Carbon Footprint Calculator. This half of the tool is a bit more detailed than for PCs and desktops, as it lets you analyse the costs and footprints of individual printers and whole fleets, but also lets you compare HP's products with its competitors, where the PC and notebook section only compares HP products to each other.

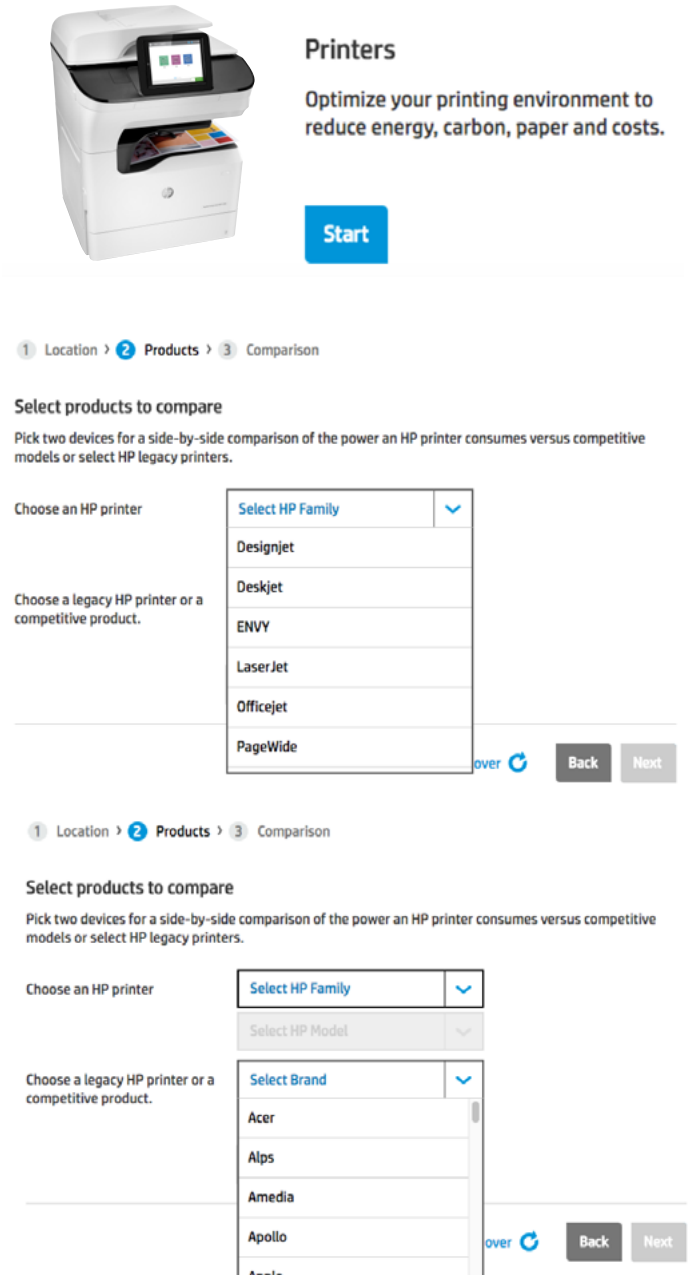
You can compare current HP printers with a comprehensive range of alternatives, and then see how much they would cost to run for various numbers of pages per year, as well as the total over a number of years. You can also see what this equates to in carbon footprint terms.

For fleet situations, the Quick tool will first look at the current situation based on employee numbers, page quantities printed on average, and the general types of printers you currently have, plus whether you have policies such as pull printing on your network. The current carbon footprint reading then includes both power and paper consumption per year. You can then see the effects of turning on features such as default duplex printing.

The comprehensive tool lets you include a lot more details about your fleet. Instead of just using broad printer categories, you can input brands and models used by your company, then specify how many of each you have in your fleet as a list. After this you can specify which HP printers you plan to replace your existing units with and see how much you could save in energy consumption, paper, emissions and overall costs.

It's invaluable to have this level of detail available as the importance of sustainability and the carbon footprint of your IT infrastructure will only become greater over the coming years.

Getting to grips with how much you could save by upgrading to more consumption-conscious kit and altering printer and computer fleet settings is more essential than ever, and HP's HP Carbon Footprint Calculator provides an essential tool to achieve this.



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