

GREEN PLAN

LAST UPDATE: DECEMBER 2023

Love Soul Choir

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE WORLD

SUPPORTING THE NATURAL WORLD.

When looking at ways that Love Soul Choir could help make a positive impact on the planet, our leader, Dan, came across the 'Trillion Trees' initiative. This is an initiative set up by WWF, Birdlife and WCS. With their combined experience, networks and resources, leveraged by a dedicated, agile team they can inspire the world to protect and restore a trillion trees by 2050.

From 2021, we pledged to donate £2 a month from each Love Soul Choir membership. This monthly donation helps restore degraded land all across the globe. Trillion Trees is currently helping to support and protect 56 million hectares of critical habitat for people and wildlife. [Click here](#) to see more.

As of 1st December 2023, Love Soul Choir has currently given £8,150 to the cause. Based on our 2023 survey results, 100% of members feel good about the fact that we give to nature conservation each month.

We will be continuing this work in to 2024 and beyond.

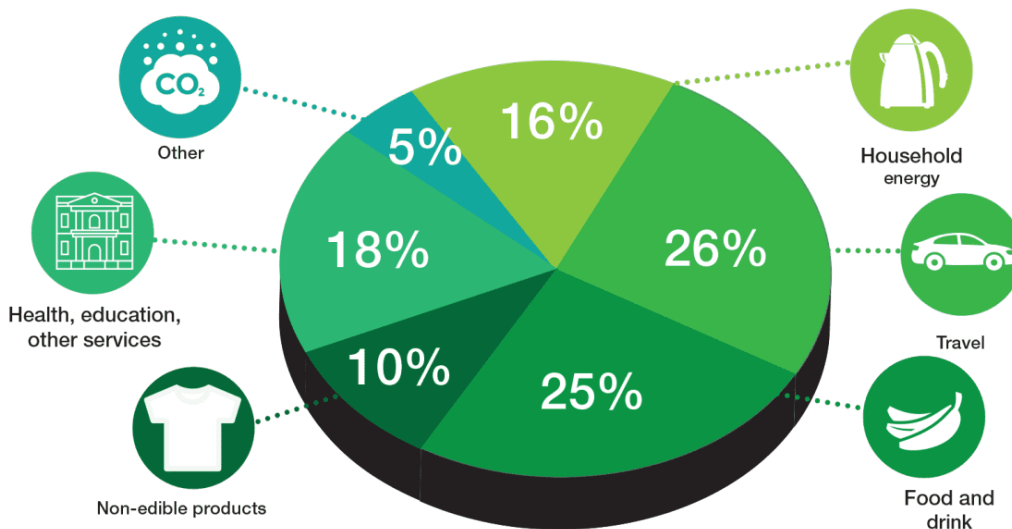


TRILLION TREES



OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

We know that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities. A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact that human activities have on the amount of CO₂ produced through the burning of fossil fuels. It's expressed as a weight of CO₂ emissions produced in tonnes. This diagram is an example of how an individual's personal CO₂ footprint can be broken down:



As a business, we have been looking at our carbon footprint and have been actively looking to reduce this over the past few years. Love Soul Choir (and its associated activities) doesn't actually have a massive carbon footprint. The majority of Love Soul Choir work is done from Dan's house (Dan is the choir leader) where his electricity and gas is currently provided by Octopus. In 2018, Octopus committed to providing even greener energy - switching all customers to 100% renewable electricity, at no additional cost. This is heaps more green than the 38.7% national average. Dan also personally offsets his own carbon footprint each and every month. You could do the same via the 'Carbon Neutral Britain' website by [clicking here](#).

We're also in the process of undertaking a GRI Sustainability Reporting Project with the University of Southampton to further understand our sustainability impact.

We want to encourage and support Love Soul Choir members in their personal journey of reducing their carbon emissions. This will, in turn, lead to Love Soul Choir and its wider community being more and more green. Fighting climate change is a collaborative effort.

GREEN EVENTS

Each year, at Love Soul Choir, we commit to four 'green' events. The primary focus of these events is to encourage members to learn, understand or connect with the natural world. There is, of course, the secondary benefit in terms of improved mental health and connection with fellow members too.



Event 1: Live Q&A Session

Dr Rachel Gardner currently works at Forestry England and has an incredible understanding of the challenges facing the planet. Once a year, Rachel joins Dan for a Q&A sessions which offers an opportunity for Love Soul Choir members to ask questions and learn about the natural world, ecosystems and the impact that humans are having on the planet and the climate. The event is designed to be uplifting, inspiring and educational.

Event 2: City Clean

We know that taking part in pro-environmental activities are good for mental wellness. Getting together with others for a single litter pick can help boost mood significantly. As well as this, it helps participants stay active whilst keeping them in the present moment - such a mindful activity. Passers-by will often give a nod or a smile of appreciation which will inevitably make people feel good.

Event 3: Nature Walk

We're so lucky to be so close to the New Forest. This is why we organise a yearly nature walk for our members. Spending time in nature can reduce anxiety and depression, according to the 'Nature and Mental Health Report' produced by mental health charity Mind. Connecting with nature is a very grounding experience and we want to encourage Love Soul Choir members to spend more time outside.

Event 4: Beach Clean 🌴

Similarly to our City Clean event, we encourage our members to come together, at the beach, for a litter pick event. As well as the mental health benefits to litter picking, on top of making everything look better, litter picking has environmental benefits too. Litter that is recycled or correctly disposed of prevents wildlife from getting hurt. It also prevents their habitats from being disturbed and prevents plastics from breaking down and entering the food chain as microplastics.



We love our green events and feel that the impacts of these are incredibly far reaching as they inspire members to do additional work outside of Love Soul Choir for the planet and our climate. One member who works at an organisation with over 1500 employees felt inspired to recommend their company introduce their own climate change programme as a result of one of the Love Soul Choir events.

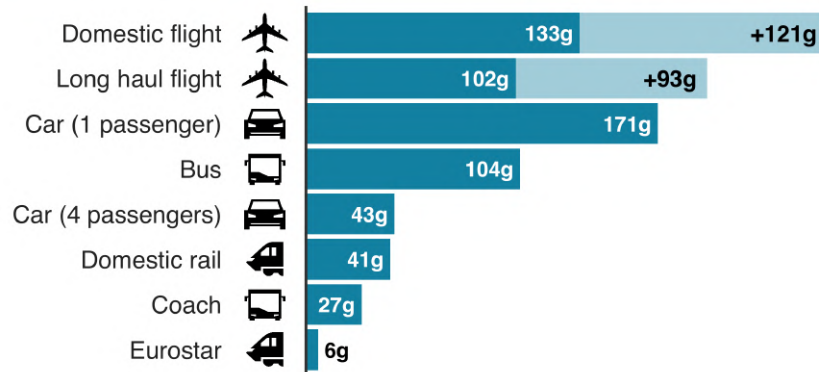
TRAVEL 🚗

The biggest carbon emitter for Love Soul Choir is the way members travel to and from sessions & performances.

Emissions from different modes of transport

Emissions per passenger per km travelled

■ CO2 emissions ■ Secondary effects from high altitude, non-CO2 emissions



Note: Car refers to average diesel car

Source: BEIS/Defra Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors 2019





As you can see from the data, a car share with four people will quarter each person's emissions, bringing driving more in line with public rail travel. We think car sharing (or exploring other ways to travel) to and from our sessions/performances would make a difference to our collective footprint. Over the past few years, we have been proactively encouraging members to car share. Not only is it better for the planet, but it can be a great way for members to connect with each other too.

IN-SESSION DEVICES

As an organisation, we're paper free. We ensure our members use personal devices at sessions instead of creating folders of printed lyric sheets.

Love Soul Choir runs solely off of Apple devices. Not only do Apple products work more effectively for creative businesses but Apple is already carbon neutral. By 2030, Apple have committed to all of their products being carbon neutral too. This will mean that all materials (across their whole product range) will be 100% recyclable and renewable and all manufacturing suppliers will be using 100% renewable energy. You can see more about the work that Apple is currently doing by [clicking here](#).



WATER BOTTLES

Members are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to sessions. Branded water bottles can even be found on the Love Soul Choir store. Our rehearsal venues in Southampton and Bournemouth both have water fountains for members to use. As of 2024, single use plastic bottles are banned at all Love Soul Choir sessions and events.



SHARING KNOWLEDGE


One really powerful way to do good is to share knowledge and important information with others. Once a month, we share a little tip with our members about ways that they can help protect the planet or look at reducing their individual carbon footprint. The hope is that our members then share this message with their contacts. Looking at our 2023 survey results; 100% of members feel good being part of a choir which is trying to make a difference to the world and 93% of members feel that our Green Plan / IAA (I'm An Ally) initiatives have encouraged them to look inwardly at their own actions and biases in relation to the planet and / or allyship / social injustice. In 2022, 71.6% of members said that our green initiative has raised their awareness of climate change. On top of this, 78.4% of members said that the monthly tips have encouraged more exploration of their personal carbon footprint.

"100% LOVE that we contribute to conservation - it has been a massive part of my life since I was young and makes me proud that one of my other interests also supports something I am passionate about." - Survey Response 2023

THE ONGOING MISSION

We're continuing to think and explore various ways that we, as a choir, can do good for the planet.

A MESSAGE FROM DAN



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

MARGARET MEAD

Love Soul is so much more than a choir. It is a family, a team, a group of people with a common goal. We come together to enrich lives, put on top quality performances and form solid friendships, for life.

Love Soul Choir is the perfect place to collectively improve the planet that we live on. As a choir leader, I feel that it's my social responsibility to drive innovation, change and progress with regard to the climate in this industry.

I'm not here to preach or tell others how to live their lives but want to share my thoughts and ideas on ways that we can all look to work together to improve this one planet that we live on. For further tips on things you could do individually, [click here](#) to see more from WWF.

I hope you'll continue to join me on this journey to live sustainably with our planet.

Dan

Dan Cooper | Choir Leader