

# CARBON JARGON BUSTING

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Here are some terms that are commonly used in relation to carbon footprinting, along with an explanation -

**Greenhouse gases (GHGs)** - gases within the atmosphere that trap heat. The three main greenhouse gases in agriculture are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)

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**Net zero** - the balance between the amount of GHG emissions produced and the amount of GHG emissions removed from the atmosphere

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**Global Warming Potential** - a term used to describe the impact of different GHGs on atmospheric warming over a period of time, in comparison with CO<sub>2</sub>

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**Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-eq)** - a standardised unit that is used to be able to directly compare different GHGs based on their Global Warming Potential

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**Emissions intensity** - the amount of emissions produced relative to product intensity (e.g. kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq of emissions / kg product)

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**Total emissions** - on a farm basis, the total emissions produced as a result of farming-related activities

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**Scopes** - categories that emissions are grouped into, depending on where they come from

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**Upstream emissions** - emissions associated with the production and transport of bought-in inputs e.g. chemical fertiliser and concentrate feed

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**Downstream emissions** - emissions produced post-farm gate e.g. packaging and distribution

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**Emission reduction** - the process of reducing GHG emissions production

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**Carbon sequestration** - a natural process by which carbon dioxide is captured and removed from the atmosphere, then stored in trees, hedges and soils

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**Carbon stock** - the quantity of carbon stored within trees, hedges and soils

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**Carbon sink** - a term to describe trees, hedges and soils if they are sequestering carbon (i.e. that they absorb more carbon than they release into the atmosphere)

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**Carbon source** - when more carbon is released into the atmosphere than the quantity of carbon that is absorbed from the atmosphere

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**Carbon offsetting** - a method of compensating for GHG emissions produced (e.g. on-farm via sequestration, via purchasing carbon credits)

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**Carbon credits** - in farming terms, a method of receiving income for the amount of carbon sequestered on-farm

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