# Personal Carbon Allowances or Budgets

- A mitigation policy proposed and developed in the UK in the 90s.

- The scope of the scheme covers household energy and personal travel.

- Individuals would be periodically given equal, free allowances.

- Defined as "a policy ahead of its time" in 2000s.

- Low social acceptability, technological barriers and high implementation costs

Simulated change at 2°C global warming
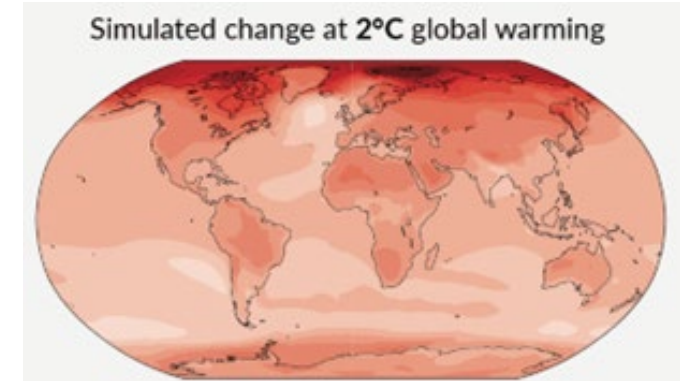
The Citizen Carbon Budget

Gisela Reyes-Cruz
University of Nottingham
Transitional Assistant Professor

Joel Fischer, Liz Dowthwaite, Peter Craigon, Anna-Maria Piskopani, Kevin Glover, Sebastian Stein, Elnaz Shafipour, Justyna Lisinska, Victoria Young, Yang Lu

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5th – 6th March 2022

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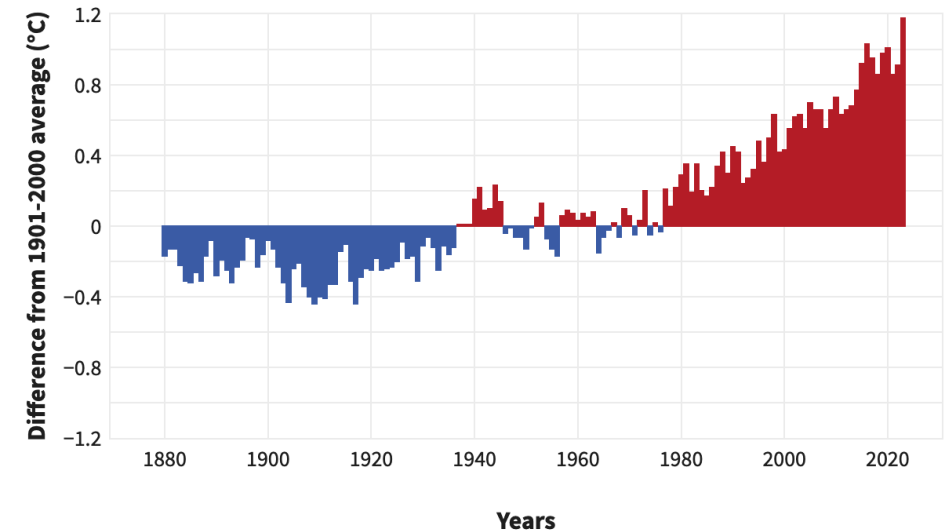
GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE

Pace and scale of current climate action are insufficient to tackle climate change

- Limiting global warming involves rapid, deep, and in most cases, immediate carbon emission reductions from both supply and demand sides.

- Potential areas for reduction of individual carbon emissions: food, transport, and household energy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Synthesis Report on Climate Change 2023; Climate Change Committee, 2021

The Citizen Carbon Budget (CCB)

- Large scale survey about views of a CCB and their relationship with personal values

- A workshop drawing from Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

- A one-month deployment of a CCB app

- A user study with a CCB recommender system

"Like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic"? Feasibility, Fairness, and Ethical Concerns of a Citizen Carbon Budget for Reducing CO2 Emissions
Under review. Submitted to the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FAccT)

"Like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic"? Feasibility, Fairness, and Ethical Concerns of a Citizen Carbon Budget for Reducing CO2 Emissions *
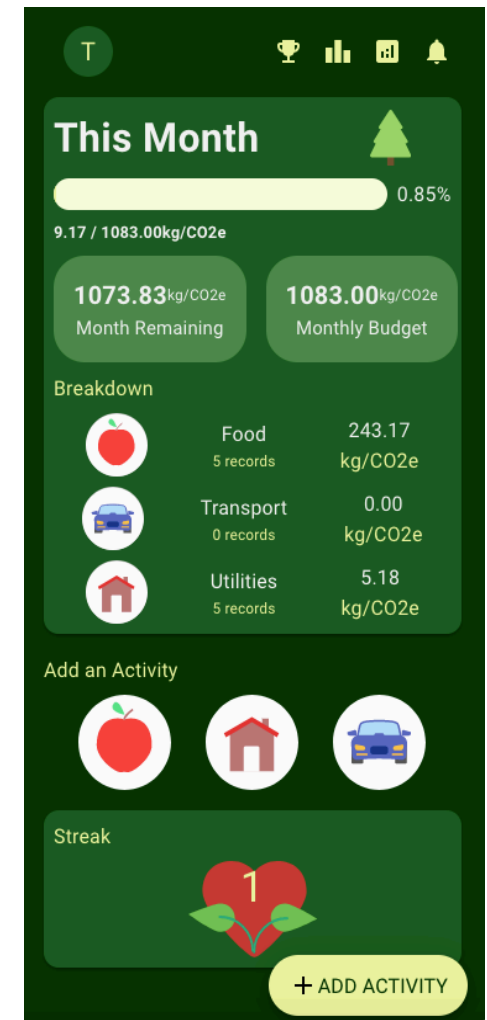
RRI workshop

- Project team
- External partners (charity, industry, policy making).
- Discussions and a card-based exercise, using a tool called the Moral-IT cards


CCB app user study

- One-month deployment
- Twelve members of the public based in the UK
- Asked to log a minimum of one record per day
- Entry and exit interviews

Under review. Submitted to the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FAccT)

594 app logs

- 396 food, 163 transport, and 35 utility

- Min value: 1 cup of coffee (0.05025 kg CO2e)
- Max value: 5800 miles travelled by plane (1786.4 kg CO2e).
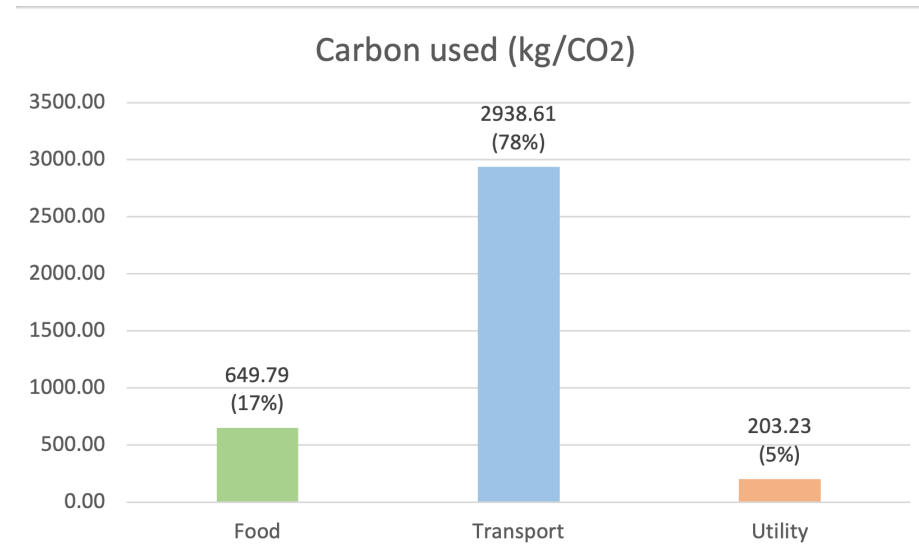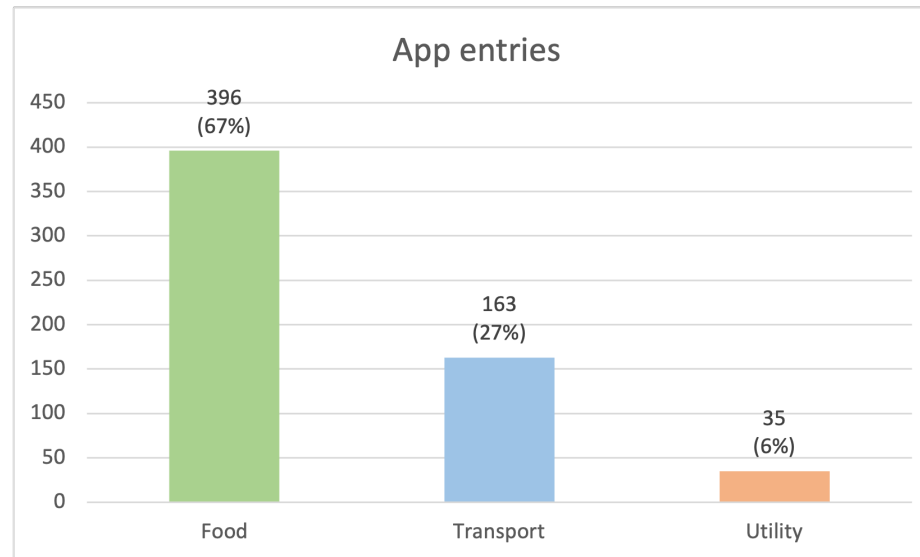
Thematic analysis

Feasibility

– Purposes, responsibilities, and impact

– Supporting awareness of own carbon emissions

– Conditions for acceptability and uptake

Fairness

– Unequal opportunities for sustainable lifestyles

– It is unfair to treat all people equally

– Environmental justice

Ethical and legal considerations

– Fear of a restrictive or punitive system

– Data protection, privacy and surveillance concerns

– Unintended consequences

Key takeaways

- The need for increasing efforts to raise awareness of individual carbon emissions; a voluntary carbon budget approach could contribute to that goal.

- Diverse nature of individuals' commitments and carbon capabilities, as not everyone can commit to the same goals due to variations in lifestyles, living infrastructure, personal circumstances, and wider context.

- Value of combined approach: it provided both macro and micro perspectives, addressing systemic concerns (RRI workshop) and individual experiences (app study participants).

- Promoting individual behaviour change should be intertwined with fostering broader public engagement and collective action for mitigating climate change.

Thank You

Get in Touch
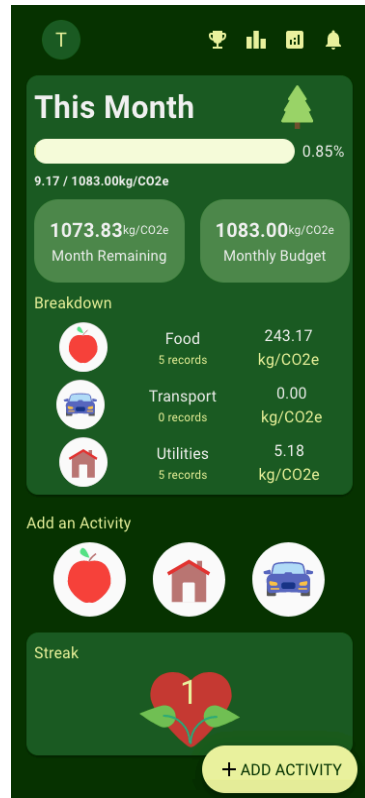
✉ gisela.reyescruz@nottingham.ac.uk

🐦 @agiselarc

TAS Equality Diversity & Inclusion survey - TAS SHOWCASE 2024

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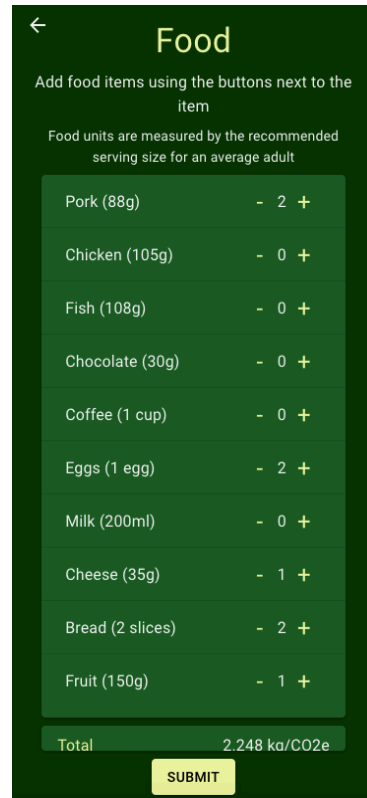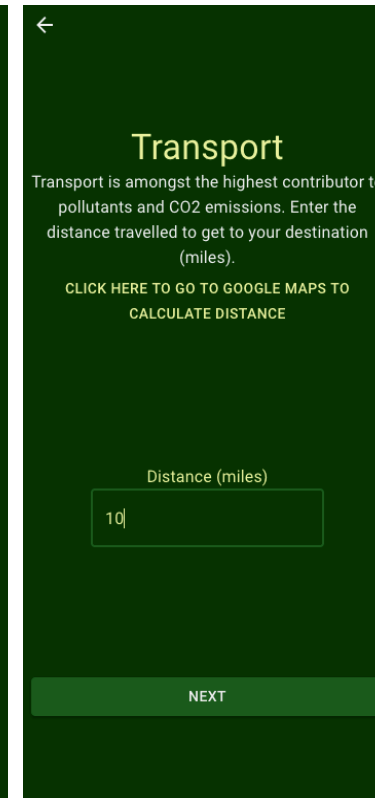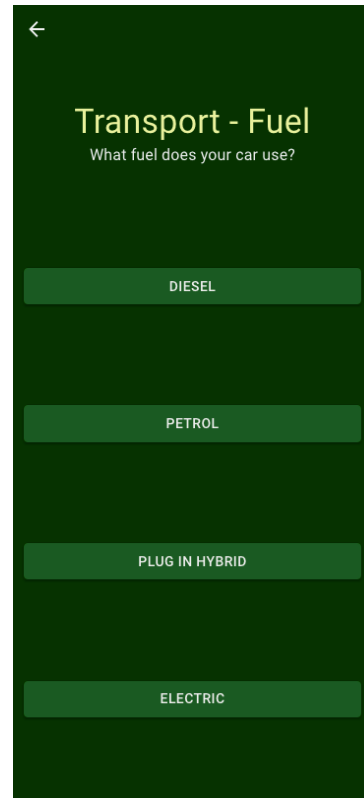# The Citizen Carbon Budget (CCB) app

Home page   Add food   Add transport   Add utilities