Greetings!

How you can contribute towards reducing your carbon footprint

Last month, delegates from across the world gathered in Madrid Spain for the United Nations Climate Conference, COP25. The delegates recognised the big gap that exists between the current progress and global goals to limit global warming. However, despite this recognition they were unable to reach consensus in many areas. The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed his disappointment with the results, lamenting that “the international community had lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaption and finance to tackle the climate crisis”.

In the recent years, the climate change effects have become more pronounced in the form of increased droughts, rise in sea levels and extreme floods, and even currently the devastating fires in Australia. Do we really want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand regarding this critical issue? This is a question that we are confronted with when we witness these climate change effects that are mainly as a result of emissions of global warming brought by greenhouse gases. Luckily the answer to most of us is no. This week we will share with you some of these measures, as a way of encouraging you to raise your ambition and contribute in making the world a better place to live in.

Investment in renewable energy resource
Greenhouse gases such as carbon are mostly generated from consumption of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels include petrol and diesel which we use in our generators to generate power, to meet our energy requirements. Some of the energy requirements for instance in accommodation facilities include: lighting, powering laundry machines and heating water among others. Investment in renewable energy resources such as solar energy may require high capital investment but it offers an important opportunity to reduce generation of greenhouse gases, and ‘shrinking’ our carbon footprint. Some of the ecorated properties in Kenya have already made an important step in this front. One of them is Mara Serena Safari Lodge, which in December 2019 commissioned its solar power plant. This property is now fully solar powered. The illustration below is the aerial view of the solar plant.

![Aerial view of solar plant](image)

**Implementing tree planting programmes**

Tree planting has been a common practice in our quest to make our properties and community more beautiful and also in providing us with shade. Did you know that tree planting plays a bigger role in protecting our ecosystem? Trees are vital to reducing carbon emissions by consuming carbon dioxide which is used in phosynthesis, and on the other hand give out oxygen as a byproduct. This therefore helps to reduce global warming and climate change effects. It is encouraged that the trees planted match the ecosystem and are of indigenous species. The
Change of lifestyle

Making simple changes to your lifestyle can go a long way in helping the environment, particularly reducing the generation of greenhouse gases such as carbon. Figuring some of these changes and where to begin may seem a little tricky. They include: carpooling, walking or biking to work, reducing on red meat consumption among others. All these changes reduce the amount of energy consumed, and consequently greenhouse gas emissions.

We need to raise our ambition and commit to this important cause. Governments and private sector cannot afford to wait. People and families cannot wait any longer. Economies must shift to a decarbonization path!