

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCY



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PRESS NOTE:

EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY-NEED FOR POST-PANDEMIC RECTIFICATION MEASURES TO ACHIEVE A VIBRANT INDIA AND BETTER WORLD

Centre for Environmental Efficiency is a public trust constituted in the year 2013. The concepts and tools improvised and propagated by the Centre for Environmental Efficiency based on authentic publications authored and quoted by the author trustee are worthy ones to achieve a vibrant India and better world.

The various Human Development Reports of UNDP, National Footprint Accounts of Global Footprint Network and the author's Thesis Dissertation from the Cochin University of Science and Technology, titled 'Environmentally-efficient Development Management System for Greater Kochi in Kerala State' are the base documents

Two strong indicators developed through the Thesis Dissertation are Environmental Efficiency and Carrying Capacity (EE&CC) which have global to local and at individual level applications. As a post-pandemic measure world economy needs rectification from a GDP oriented linear economy to EE oriented circular economy where both humans and ecosystems prosper.

Centre for Environmental Efficiency is conducting an online talk on EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY on July 29, 4 pm to 5.30 pm as part of their 'Knowledge Sharing Session' to create awareness on this topic:

'Overshooting Earth: Sustainable Solutions and Strategies in the Indian Context'

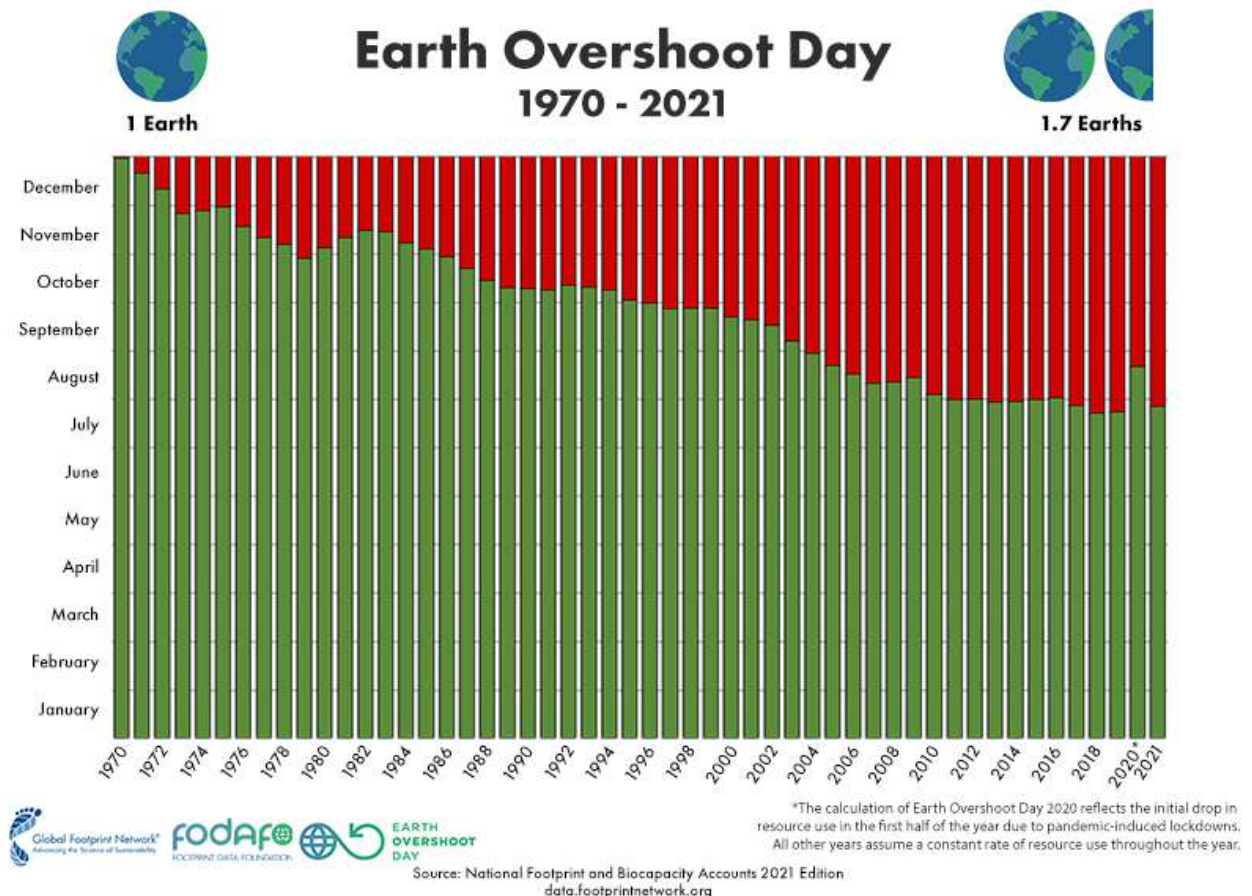
Salient points of press note issued by the Global Footprint Network about **Earth Overshoot Day** are as follows:-

Earth Overshoot Day 2021 lands on July 29, Councillor Susan Aitken, the Leader of Glasgow City Council, announced on June 4, 2021, on behalf of Global Footprint Network and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

“With almost half a year remaining, we will already have used up our quota of the Earth’s biological resources for 2021 by July 29th. If we need reminding that we’re in the grip of a climate and ecological emergency, Earth Overshoot Day is it,” she said.

The date is almost as early as 2019, after being momentarily pushed back in 2020 by the coronavirus pandemic-induced lockdowns. Notable drivers are the 6.6% carbon Footprint increase over last year, as well as the 0.5% decrease in global forest biocapacity due in large part to the spike in Amazon deforestation—in Brazil alone, 1.1 million hectares were lost in 2020 and estimates for 2021 indicate up to 43% year-over-year increase in deforestation.

“As the UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration is launched on World Environment Day, June 5, this data makes abundantly clear that recovery plans in the post-COVID 19 eras can only be successful in the long-term if they embrace regeneration and ecological resource-efficiency,” said Global Footprint Network CEO Laurel Hanscom.



Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity has used all the biological resources that Earth regenerates during the entire year. Humanity currently uses 74% more than what the planet's ecosystems can regenerate—or "1.7 Earths." From Earth Overshoot Day until the end of the year, humanity operates on ecological deficit spending. This spending is currently some of the largest since the world entered into ecological overshoot in the early 1970s, according to the National Footprint & Biocapacity Accounts (NFA) based on UN datasets.

In 2021 the carbon Footprint of transportation remains lower than pre-pandemic levels. CO2 emissions from domestic air travel and road transport are set to remain 5% below 2019 levels, while international aviation is expected to register 33% below, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Global energy-related CO2 emissions, on the other hand, are projected to rebound and grow by 4.8% from last year as the economic recovery ignites demand for fossil fuels. In particular, global coal use is anticipated to jump in 2021 and is estimated to contribute 40% of the total carbon Footprint this year.

Last year, as the pandemic hit around the world, governments demonstrated they can act swiftly, both in terms of regulations and spending, when they put human lives above all else. The perfect storm that is brewing, as climate change impacts and biological resource security converge, requires the same level—or higher—of alertness and swift action from decision-makers.

"In November, as a weary world turns its attention to Scotland and COP26, together we can choose one-planet prosperity over one-planet misery. We can and must build from the pandemic—our global ability to plan, protect and move at pace..

Through their infrastructure and regulatory powers, cities have significant opportunities to shape their resource efficiency and, with it, their future. Given their risk exposure, aligning their development plans with what resiliency requires in a world shaped by climate change and biological resource constraints, has become cities' utmost priority regardless of international agreements.

"Cities are ideal living laboratories for social and environmental innovation, offering significant learning to create real-world solutions and transformation. And universities have an obligation to act in partnership with their host cities to accelerate progress toward a just and sustainable future," said Professor Jaime Toney, director of the University of Glasgow's Centre for Sustainable Solutions. "We are working with a people- and place-based approach to deliver positive change for a climate-resilient city whose legacy lasts beyond COP26."

“Let Earth Overshoot Day be our call to arms,” stated Councillor Susan Aitken, the Leader of Glasgow City Council. “In November the eyes of the world will be on Glasgow, host of COP26, the climate summit that needs to make the decisions that will deliver our planet on a safer and more sustainable future. Let’s put our planet first and let’s #MoveTheDate together.”



Dr May Mathew

Author Trustee

For more information on EE&CC theories, National Footprint Accounts and Earth Overshoot Day please visit the following websites:

www.centreforenviromentalefficiency.org

www.footprintnetwork.org

www.overshootday.org