Dutch Overshoot Day

April 12th 2023

If everybody lived like people in the Netherlands, we would need 3.6 Earths.

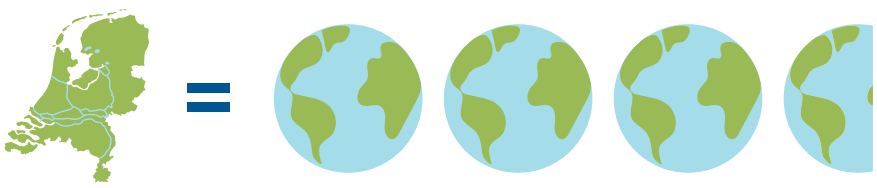
Biocapacity

Biocapacity is the ecosystems' capacity to regenerate biological materials used by people and to absorb waste material generated by humans, under current management schemes and extraction technologies.

Ecological Footprint

The Ecological Footprint adds up all the competing demands on biologically productive areas. They include areas to produce the food, fibre, and timber, to accommodate houses and roads, and to absorb CO_2 from burning fossil fuels.

Living off depletion is not a long-term strategy. Depletion or overuse will end. The question is only whether by design or disaster. Since the 1970 however, humanity's footprint is bigger than what Earth can replenish. **In 2022, humanity lived as if we had 1.75 Earths.** Dutch consumption is even higher: It would take **3.6 Earths** if everyone lived like today's Dutch, and in 2023 the planet's annual budget would already be used up by April 12. This is therefore this year's Dutch Overshoot Day.



The ecological footprint of the Netherlands is not only 3.6 times larger than what is available per person worldwide, but even 7.3 times bigger than the country's biocapacity, as shown below. The Ukraine war has made obvious that this resource imbalance is becoming a growing political and economic risk, particularly in a time of massive ecological overshoot.

The Netherlands' Biocapacity

The biocapacity of the Netherlands mainly consists of fishing grounds (54%) and cropland (23%).

Ecological Footprint

The carbon footprint makes up over 60% of the Dutch ecological footprint. It corresponds to almost 4.5x the biocapacity of the country. This is the area needed to sequester the CO_2 from burning fossil fuels. Food accounts for 24% of the ecological footprint, or 50% more than the entire biocapacity of the country.

Food4Future

Food accounts for about 24% of the ecological footprint of the Netherlands.

- To feed its residents, requires twice the biocapacity of the country
- A successful future depends on a far better food system that fits within the planet's constraints
- Wageningen University & Research, FiBL - Research Institute for Organic Agriculture and Global Footprint Network joined forces to develop pathways for sustainable food systems. This research project is supported by AVINA Stiftung.

www.footprintnetwork.org/food4future

Together we can #MoveTheDate

Moving the date increases our resource security. Resource security is achievable if we recognize it as an economic priority.

- Assets that use fewer resources will become more valuable (energy efficient housing)
- People-powered mobility will out-crowed the one depending on fossil fuel (take the bike!)
- Investments in clean energy have a future
- Learn to adopt a plant rich diet and eat less and better meat

The Netherlands was in ecological deficit already in 1961. In the last years, the deficit has been shrinking, but only slowly.
For more data on the Netherlands and all countries from around the world: data.footprintnetwork.org

Global Footprint Network®
Advancing the Science of Sustainability

For more: www.footprintnetwork.org/netherlands