

Greta Thunberg arrives in New York after a 15 day emission free voyage across the Atlantic

Update: Greta Thunberg sailed into the New York Harbour after a 15-day carbon-free journey across the Atlantic. She undertook this journey from Plymouth, England to New York City to draw attention to climate change ahead of an important United Nations conference. She traveled aboard the Malizia II yacht that was powered by solar panels and hydro-generators.

After the stepping off the yacht, she told reporters, "It was a bit rough sometimes but it went incredibly well, and I didn't feel seasick, so I was extremely lucky."



It is not a fear of flying that is stopping Greta Thunberg from catching a flight to New York on her way to the UN Climate Action Summit. It is the fear of the impact that a trip like that will have on the planet that is stopping her. According to www.carbonfootprint.com, the carbon footprint (the amount of carbon dioxide given off into the atmosphere because of the activities of an individual) for one passenger from Sweden to the USA is 1.77 tonnes of CO₂e. [This fact is unacceptable for the teenager whose Fridays for Future global school climate initiative is one of the most significant youth movements at the moment.](#) Air travel is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions.

Greta will definitely be attending the Summit in September though, as she has been offered a ride across the Atlantic by the owner of the emission-free racing yacht, Malizia II. The yacht has solar panels and underwater turbines that make zero-carbon electricity. The trip to New York will take two weeks.

Greta will then travel by train to Santiago, Chile to the Summit with stops in Mexico and other countries along the way. She has taken a year off from school to attend conferences which she says are "pretty much where our future will be decided." She has already spoken at last year's UN climate conference, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and addressed the French and British Parliaments.

Inspired by Greta? Here are a few things really easy things that you could do to offset your own carbon

footprint:

Things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint:

- **Cut down on driving and try to walk, carpool or use public transport as much as possible.**
- **Unplug your devices. Even if your cord is plugged into the socket, it is using energy so pull them out when not in use.**
- **Even if you live in an apartment, surrounding yourself with plants is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint.**
- **Dry your clothes naturally, on a line, instead of in a dryer and save 1/3 of the carbon footprint.**
- **Switch to LED lightbulbs.**
- **When you go on holiday, choose environmentally friendly hotels.**
- **Reduce water usage in the loo! Use low-flow showers, and water-efficient flushes and fix any leaks asap!**
- **Don't chuck that dinner! You can whip up a new recipe with leftovers for tomorrow's lunch**
- **When buying new appliances like air-conditioners, refrigerators etc., look for the energy ratings and buy the most energy-efficient ones**
- **Recycle, recycle, recycle everything you can!**



Written by: Pereena Lamba. Pereena is a freelance writer, editor and creative consultant. She is also co-author of *Totally Mumbai*.