

# **Climate veganism**

Examining factory farming within  
the context of climate change

THEO (THONG NGUYEN)

PROJECT 1  
THE POLITICS OF TECHNOLOGY  
YSDN 3006  
FALL 2020  
MARK CHEUNG

# Climate veganism

## Sources

### 1. Animal Industry

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

### 2. Animal Liberation

PETER SINGER

### 3. Environmental impacts of food production

OUR WORLD IN DATA

### 4. Evolution, the human diet and the meat vs. plant conundrum

GENETIC LITERACY PROJECT

### 5. FAOSTAT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

### 6. FoodData Central

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### 7. Key facts and findings

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

### 8. Nutritional composition of red meat

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

### 9. Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers

J. POOREC AND T. NEMECEK

### 10. The Juicy History of Humans Eating Meat

HISTORY.COM

# **Climate veganism**

## Summary

With the looming threats global warming and climate change that have been warned by scientists for decades, the world is scrambling for solutions and mitigations. Agreements are made, legislations are passed and research is being done, of course with the added handicap of long bureaucratic complications and nightmares. This is also compounded by the fact that this problem is such an inevitable but slow process, making it hard for some to grasp the gravity of its devastation.

It is the joint after effects of multiple organizations and industries that got us to where we are today, struggling to keep global temperature increase to half a percentage point within the next decade. Due to the sheer economic impact of those entities, eliminating them is hardly practical.

There is not much an individual could do. But by understanding a part so close to their everyday life—their diet—from why it is the way it is today, the finer details of its parts, to what they can do starting from today, a person can help alleviate this dilemma of this generation, possibly this century.

The answer has always been on our plates: meat and its overlooked burdens.

# Climate veganism

## Data

### Industries

Source for data within page is cited by the first number, unless denoted specifically elsewhere

#### INDUSTRIES (WORLDWIDE)<sup>5</sup>

Global livestock represent 15% of all anthropogenic GHG emissions<sup>7</sup>

Beef (61%)<sup>7</sup>

**1.4 billion**

Live cows (2018)

**1.7 billion tonnes**

CO2eq (2017)

**25.5 kilograms**

CO2eq/kg product

Pork (9%)<sup>7</sup>

**0.97 billion**

Live pigs (2018)

**177 million tonnes**

CO2eq (2017)

**1.47 kilograms**

CO2eq/kg product

Chicken (8%)<sup>7</sup>

**23.7 billion**

Live chickens (2018)

**62 million tonnes**

CO2eq (2017)

**0.56 kilograms**

CO2eq/kg product

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## Data

### Land use

LAND USE (MEASURED IN SQUARE METERS)<sup>3</sup>

50% of habitable land is used for agricultural production.  
77% of which is used exclusively for livestock.

per kg of product

<b>326.2 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>17.4 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>12.2 m<sup>2</sup></b>
Beef	Pork	Poultry

per 1000kcal of product

<b>119.5 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7.3 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>6.6 m<sup>2</sup></b>
Beef	Pork	Poultry

per 100g of protein

<b>184.8 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>10.7 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7.1 m<sup>2</sup></b>
Beef	Pork	Poultry

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## Data

### Water use

WATER USE (MEASURED IN LITERS)

3

& POLLUTION (MEASURED IN GRAMS OF PHOSPHATE EQUIVALENTS)

70% of global freshwater withdrawals is from agriculture.  
That 70% in turn produces 78% of global water pollution.

per kg of product

**1,451 L**

Beef

**1,796 L**

Pork

**660 L**

Poultry

per 1000kcal of product

**994 L**

Beef

**751 L**

Pork

**357 L**

Poultry

per 100g of protein

**1,375 L**

Beef

**1,110 L**

Pork

**381 L**

Poultry

Eutrophying emissions (water pollution) per 100g

**151.2 g**

Beef

**47.2 g**

Pork

**28.1 g**

Poultry

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## Data

### Emissions

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (MEASURED IN KG PER CO<sub>2</sub>EQ)<sup>3</sup>

26% of ghg emissions is from food production.  
52% of which is from livestock and the cultivation of their feed.

per kg of product<sup>5</sup>

**25.5 kg**

Beef

**1.47 kg**

Pork

**0.56 kg**

Poultry

per 1000kcal of product

**36.4 kg**

Beef

**5.15 kg**

Pork

**5.34 kg**

Poultry

per 100g of protein

**49.9 kg**

Beef

**7.61 kg**

Pork

**5.7 kg**

Poultry

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## Data

Significance to  
Canada's economy

### CANADA'S ANIMAL INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE <sup>1</sup>

Canada's animal industry imports \$2.7B and exports <sup>5</sup> \$5.5B in meat products in 2018.

#### Red meat and livestock

**12.24M**

Cattles

**72%**

of cattles are  
expored to the US

**72,860**

cattle farms

#### Poultry and egg

**1.45B kg**

of poultry meat  
annually

**35.1 kg**

of chicken  
for every Canadian

**3,344**

chicken and turkey  
producers

# Climate veganism

Source for data within page is cited by the first number, unless denoted specifically elsewhere

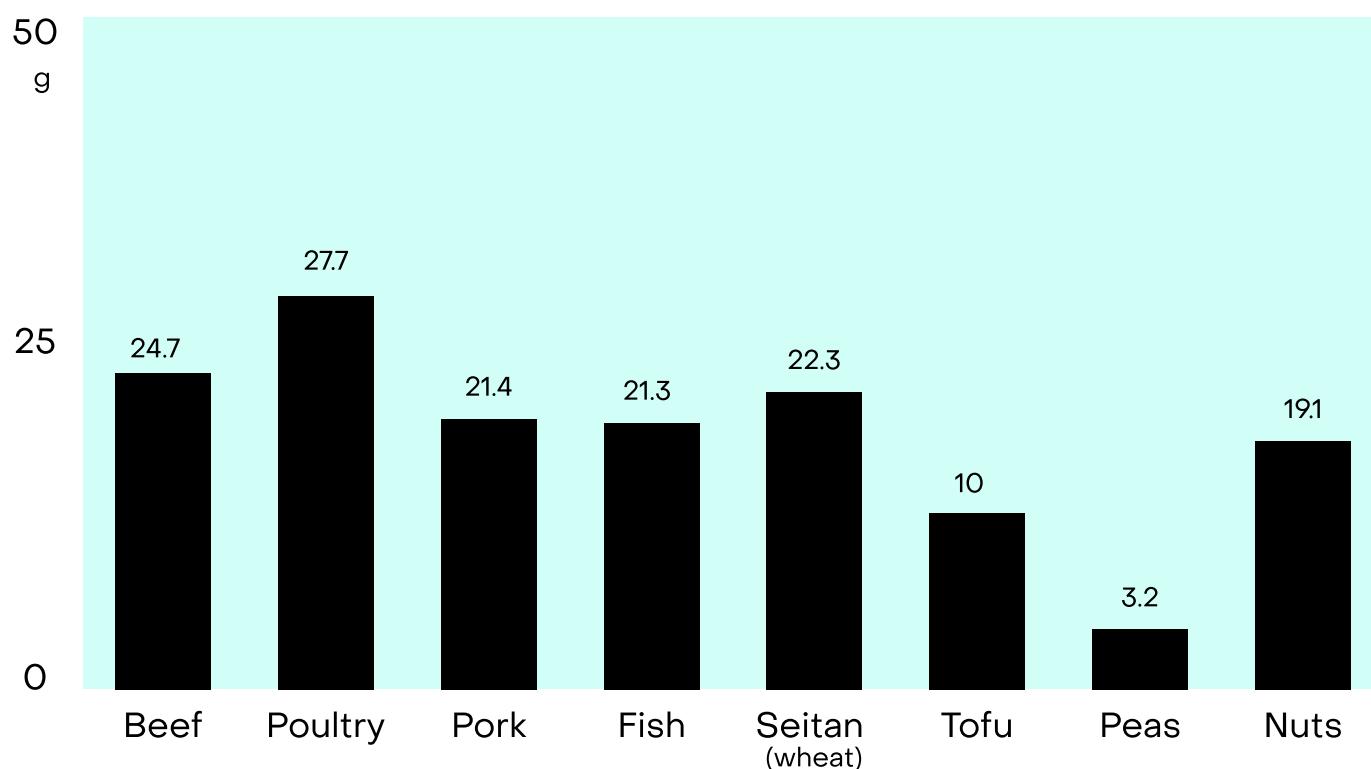
## Data

Nutrition – protein

### NUTRITION FACTS/EMISSIONS PER 100 GRAMS OF MEATS & ALTERNATIVES<sup>6, 8</sup>

Results achieved by averaging 3 Foundation type results (if exist) of product

protein



# Climate veganism

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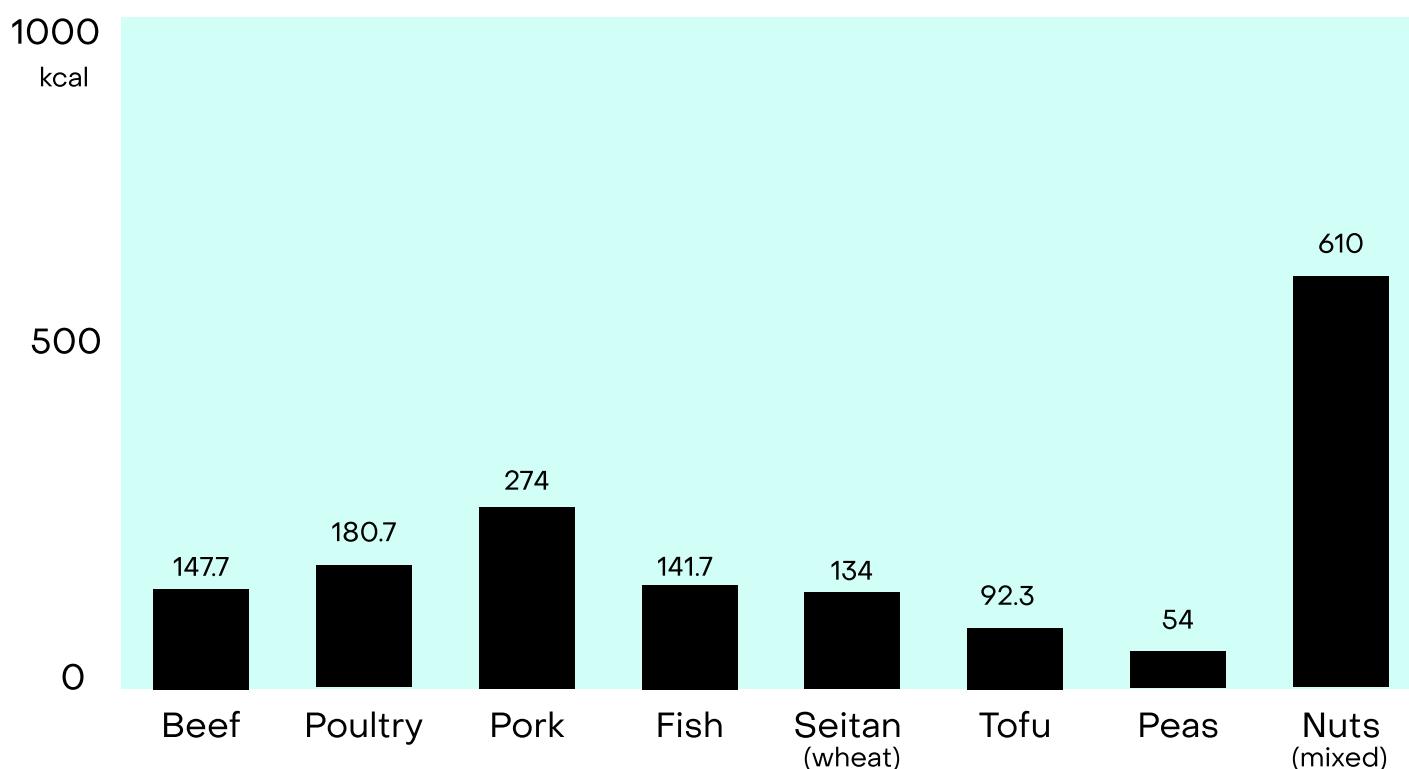
## Data

Nutrition – calorie

### NUTRITION FACTS/EMISSIONS PER 100 GRAMS OF MEATS & ALTERNATIVES<sup>6, 8</sup>

Results achieved by averaging 3 Foundation type results (if exist) of product

calorie



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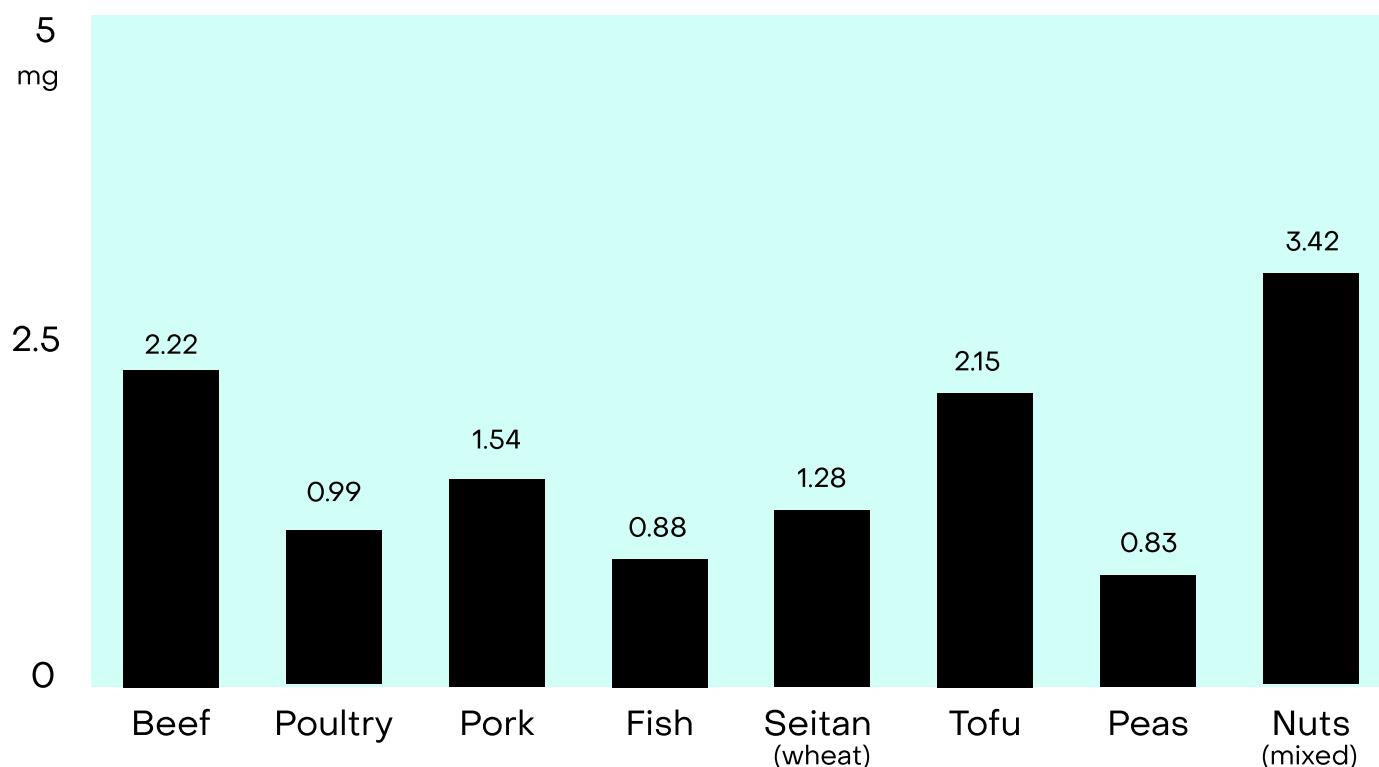
## Data

Nutrition – iron

### NUTRITION FACTS/EMISSIONS PER 100 GRAMS OF MEATS & ALTERNATIVES<sup>6, 8</sup>

Results achieved by averaging 3 Foundation type results (if exist) of product

iron



# Climate veganism

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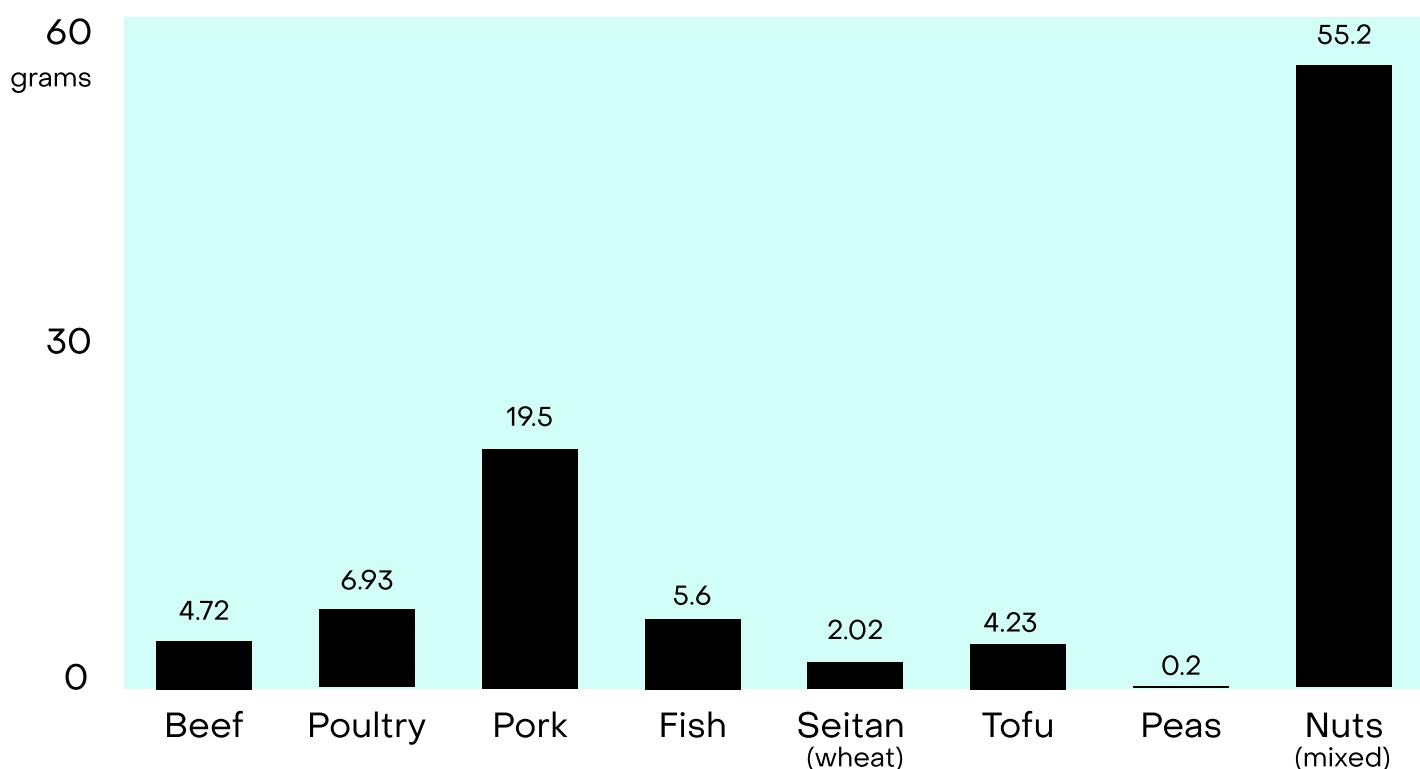
## Data

### Nutrition – fats

#### NUTRITION FACTS/EMISSIONS PER 100 GRAMS OF MEATS & ALTERNATIVES<sup>6, 8</sup>

Results achieved by averaging 3 Foundation type results (if exist) of product

#### total fats



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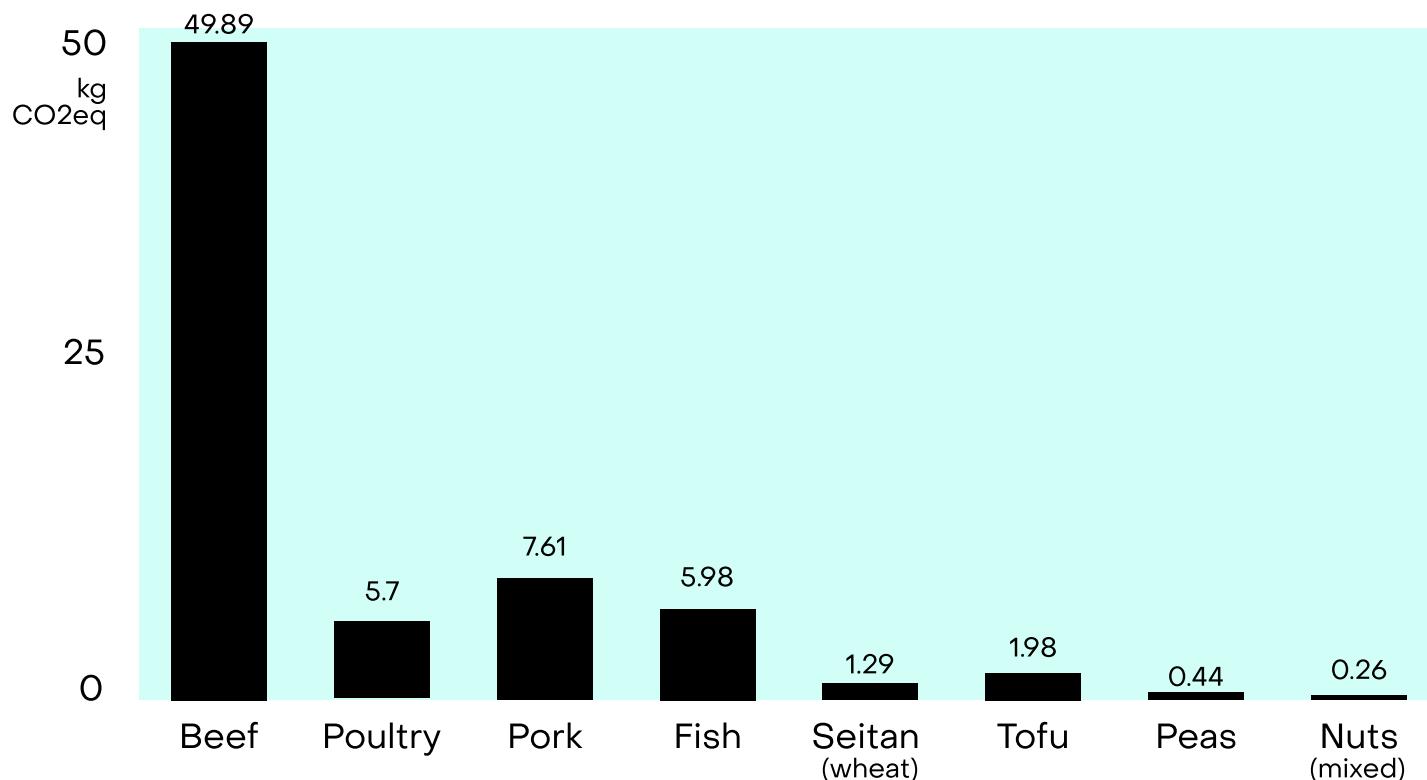
## Data

### Emissions comparison

#### NUTRITION FACTS/EMISSIONS PER 100 GRAMS OF MEATS & ALTERNATIVES<sup>6, 8</sup>

Results achieved by averaging 3 Foundation type results (if exist) of product

ghg emissions per 100g of protein<sup>3</sup>



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## Data

### History

## WHY DID OUR PREHISTORIC ANCESTORS START EATING MEAT? <sup>4, 10</sup>

### 1. Out of necessity

Ironically, climate change heated up the planet and reduced rain, making vegetation harder to find. In order to find enough food, our ancestors had no choice but to eat whatever was available, even if it moves.

### 2. Relative immunity to fats

In comparison to other primates, the body of our species has the genes to process high concentrations of fats and proteins. Other apes would see their lifespans reduced by half if they were to adapt the modern human diet.

### 3. The discovery and use of tools

The ancient human teeth were stronger and larger, adapted for processing plants. When the earliest tools started being used, our ancestors realized that the same tools can be used to pre-process meat, making it easier to digest.

### 4. More energy is needed for a big brain

Having a brain larger than that of other apes of course comes with its perks, but not without its quirks. The modern human brain consumes about 20% of the body's total energy, which meat, being a calorie and protein dense food, can satisfy.

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## Data

### The moral arguments

#### THE MORAL ARGUMENTS OF GOING VEGAN 2 THROUGH QUOTES FROM ANIMAL LIBERATION

##### 1. We're risking the fate of billions of humans at the effects of climate change to satisfy our taste buds

"Forests and meat animals compete for the same land. The prodigious appetite of the affluent nations for meat means that agribusiness can pay more than those who want to preserve or restore the forest. We are, quite literally, gambling with the future of our planet – for the sake of hamburgers"

##### 2. Animals cannot make a moral case for themselves, thus it's our responsibility

"We have to speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves."

##### 3. We should afford animals the same moral consistency as we do our fellow people

"To protest about bullfighting in Spain, the eating of dogs in South Korea, or the slaughter of baby seals in Canada while continuing to eat eggs from hens who have spent their lives crammed into cages, or veal from calves who have been deprived of their mothers, their proper diet, and the freedom to lie down with their legs extended, is like denouncing apartheid in South Africa while asking your neighbors not to sell their houses to blacks."

##### 4. Intelligence isn't a moral basis to decide what should or shouldn't be eaten

"If possessing a higher degree of intelligence does not entitle one human to use another for his or her own ends, how can it entitle humans to exploit non-humans?"

##### 5. The production of meat is so inherently wasteful that if stopped, we can practically end world hunger

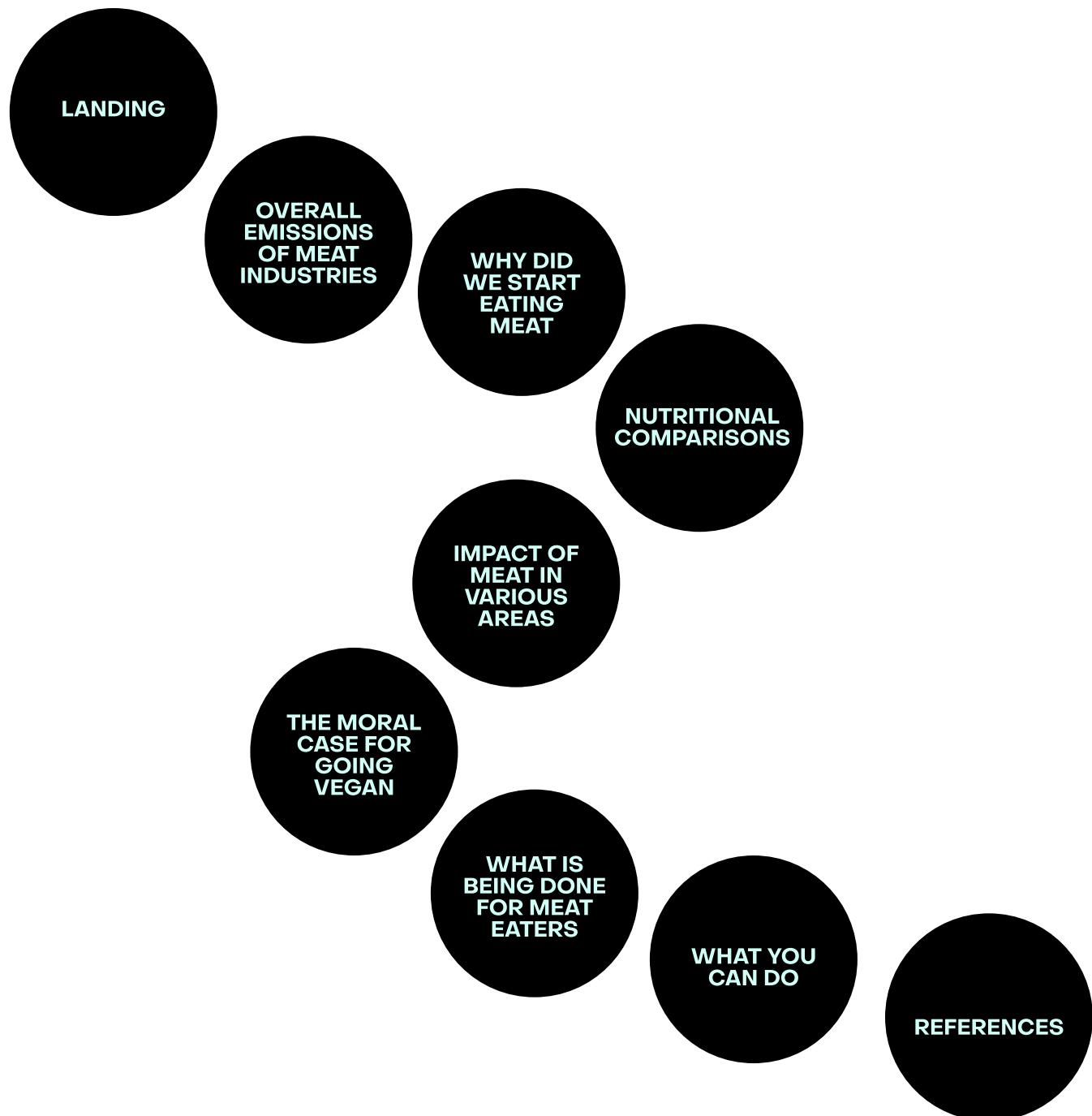
"By ceasing to rear and kill animals for food, we can make so much extra food available for humans that, properly distributed, it would eliminate starvation and malnutrition from this planet. Animal Liberation is Human Liberation too."

# Climate veganism

## Site flow

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SITE FOLLOWS A LINEAR STRUCTURE WITH OPTIONS TO START OVER OR GO BACK TO THE PREVIOUS PAGE



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## Initial sketches/ mockups

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One of the greatest sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is right on your plate.

Meat industries account for as much as 18%<sup>1</sup> of global emissions.



Ooga booga me like meat.  
But why?



What does meat actually do for us?



chart™  
pending

Hard numbers. Tough stats. Cold graphs



The moral argument



What is being done?

**IMPOSSIBLE**



What you can do

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## Style tiles

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### NAMEPENDING™

## Heading

OBJECT SANS BOLD 60PT

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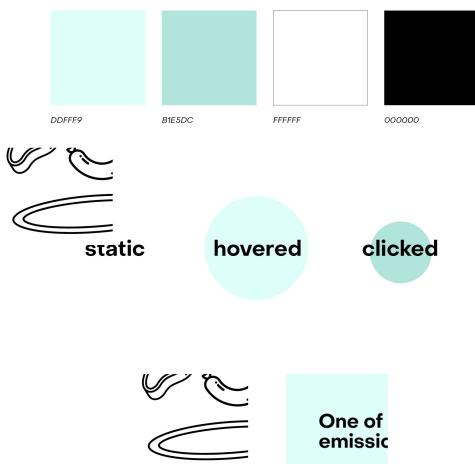
OBJECT SANS REGULAR 12PT

## Subheading

OBJECT SANS BOLD 30PT

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OBJECT SANS REGULAR 12PT



### NamePending™

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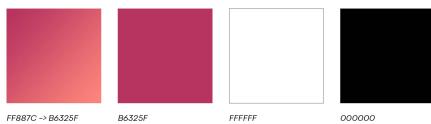
OBJECT SANS REGULAR 12PT

## Subheading

OBJECT SANS BOLD 30PT

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OBJECT SANS REGULAR 12PT



This aesthetic was chosen due to its sanitized and plain look, which fits the subject matter more, allowing the visitor to focus on the content itself.

In this alternative tile, a red to orange gradient was chosen as the main theme colour to more closely link the site style to the topic of meat.

# Climate veganism

## Style and animation prototype

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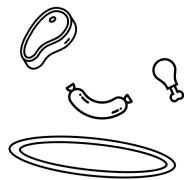
Also accessible here

One of the greatest sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is right on your plate.

The green is used for navigation hints and hover effects rather than in text/images.

Animation is focused on bringing content into or out of view, through simple fades and slides.

Meat industries account for as much as 18% of global emissions.



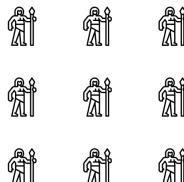
Meat industries account for as much as 18% of global emissions.

Poultry industry

Numbers, stats and figures  
Stats, figures and numbers  
Figures, numbers and data



Why did we start eating meat?



Why did we start eating meat?

1. Because it was a necessity

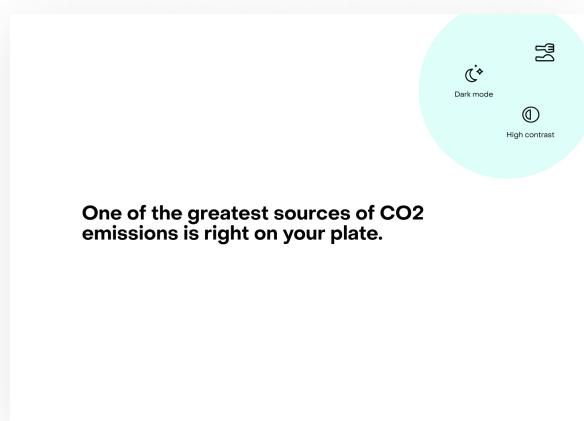
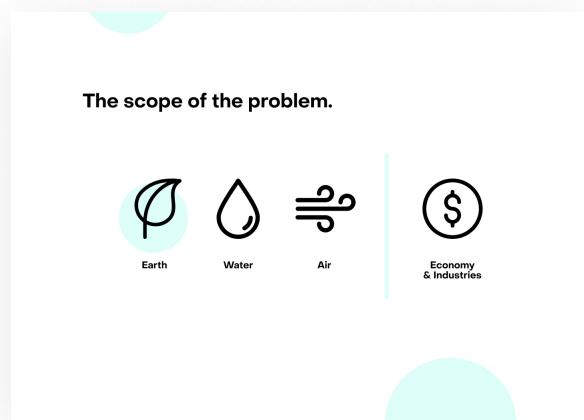
the principle according to which something must be as, by virtue of some condition, if that condition is true. If there is a condition that cannot be denied, then the statement accepting this

# Climate veganism

## Style and animation prototype

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Also accessible here



One of the greatest sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is right on your plate.



Charts needed to be improved functionality wise.

A small settings area is considered for a dark mode and high contrast options, in order to make the site more accessible.