

Critical Receipt

The production and use of goods and services is a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. What and how we consume has an impact on the environment.

A receipt is a proof of a transaction, it documents our consumption.

A receipt printer prints out receipts, it is born to facilitate consumption.

The following two designs use the receipt printer to alert people to consumption.



Cultural Ballot

- a purchase is a vote

In democracy, every citizen has a vote to elect its government officials.

Voting is one way how citizens exert their power.

A single vote may feel insignificant in an election, but collectively, these votes influence the state.

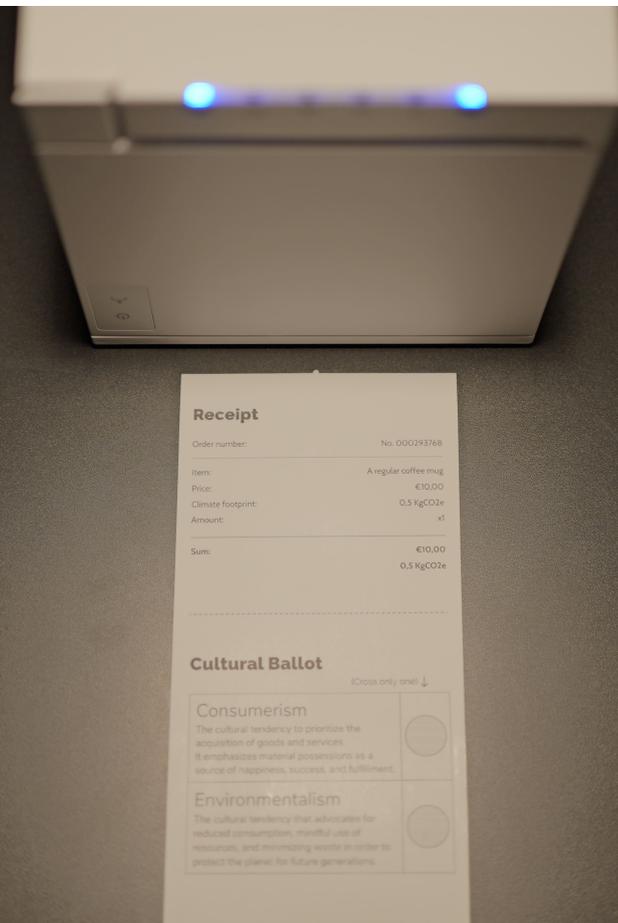
Similarly, every purchase maybe insignificant, but collectively, these purchasing choices shift markets, policies, and cultural norms.

Purchases are more than transactions — they are a declaration of values.

With every item we buy, we cast a vote for the world we want to live in.

Just like voting for elections, peacefully and silently deciding the future.

Shopping is an act of agency.



Supplementary videos:

<https://youtu.be/TzW3wDCbj-Y>

<https://youtu.be/SXIA4AKva2s>

Carbon Cash

- money's opposite

Money is important, it drives our capitalist society. People chase it, accumulate it, and then, spend it.

Carbon Cash is a fictional currency with "CO₂e" as its unit, indicating the ecological footprint. It is received after each purchase with the amount equal to the carbon emissions of purchased items.

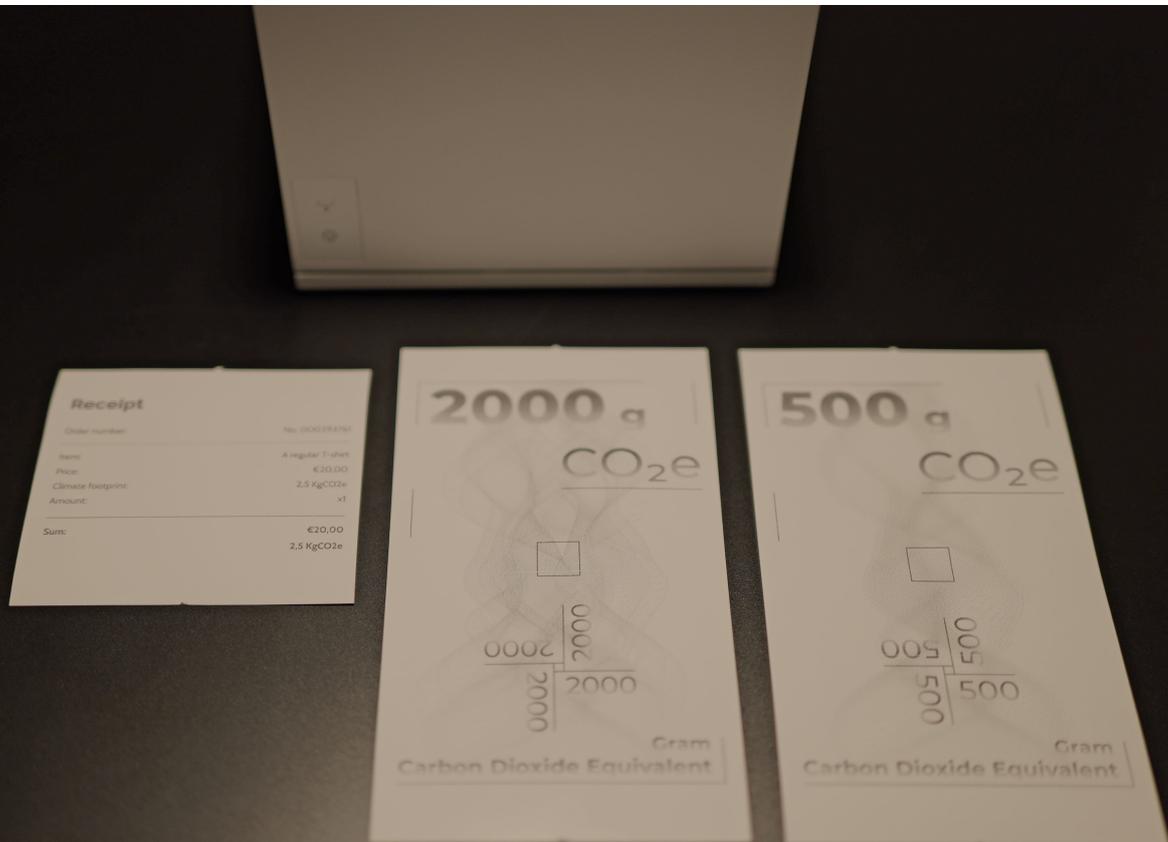
As Carbon Cash represents what we owe to the environment, spending Carbon Cash involves positive actions that improve the environment.

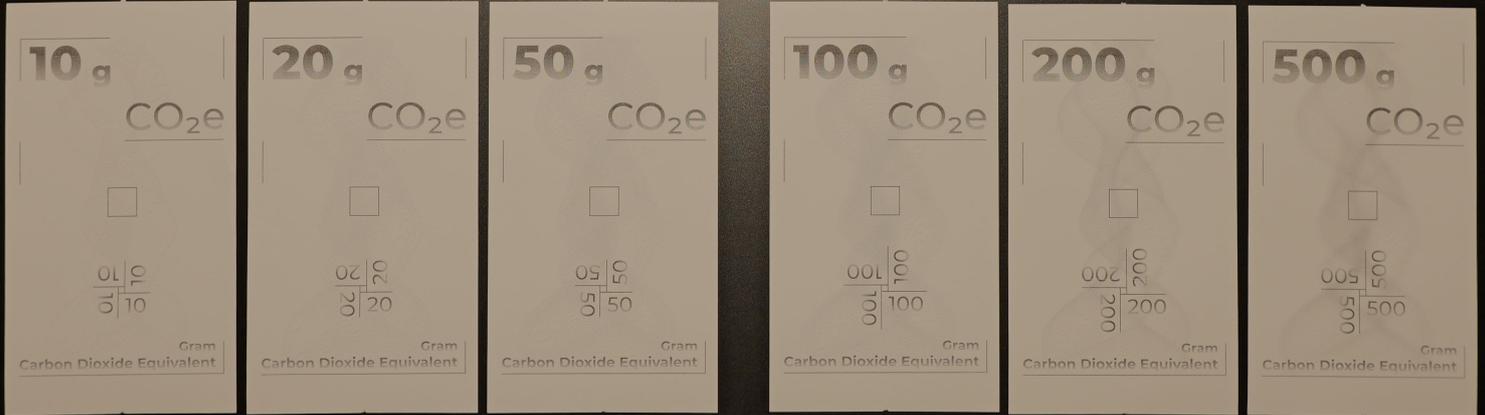
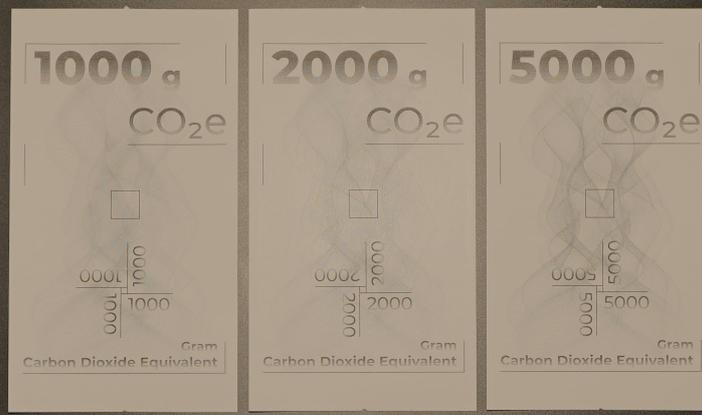
Carbon Cash vs. Money:

- Carbon Cash is issued and printed by receipt printers, unlike money which has to be issued by authorities.
- Carbon Cash implies debt and guilt, unlike money which implies power and fame.
- Spending money is easy, earning money is not easy, it involves effort-making, whereas earning carbon cash is easy, but spending carbon cash is not, it involves effort-making.
- Most of the time, people spend money (consumption) to get carbon cash.

Carbon cash may seem like a joke, yet it means something serious. It represents the ecological consequence of every purchase, which is as real as money.

So, how could we spend Carbon Cash?





Supplementary video:

<https://youtu.be/zNwbnyhqUGM>

Contact:

Tong Yu (that.tong.yu@gmail.com)

About: www.tongyu.space