

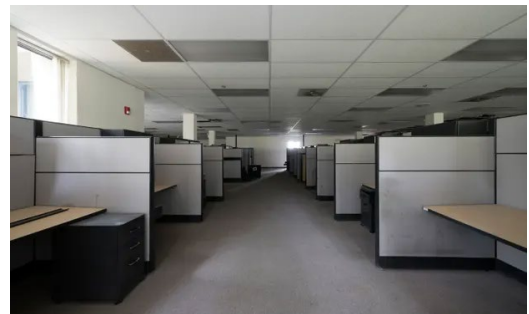
## The Concept of Physical Workplaces

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We currently live in a time where more than ever we need to cut back on our use of fossil fuels and electricity. This can be accounted for as the Cost Of Living Crisis however the bigger issue is Global Warming. Yet nobody seems to see that aspect of this. The COL Crisis is helping us move into a new way of living that helps protect the environment. There is another course of action however that few companies have done. This is to reduce the use of workspace environments. When someone has a workspace that they have to travel to every day, It has a cost for both sides. It costs the workers moral energy, time and money for travel and it costs the business money to rent out or maintain a building.

By allowing workers to work at home, It prevents extra expenses in travel and lets businesses save money by not having to purchase/rent a workspace. This lack of travel will result in the amount of cars on the road severely dropping, Resulting in less cars being in use to create carbon emissions. <sup>1</sup>Transportation is the cause of 27% of carbon emissions currently in our air. This data was from 2020 and is likely worse at the current time. Through the reduction of transport used daily, Not only does it help the people, but it also helps the planet.



Wasted space outside office hours<sup>^</sup>

We have seen something very similar to this before and yet nobody is making the comparison. Back when the public viewed covid as a threat, People were petrified to put themselves at risk



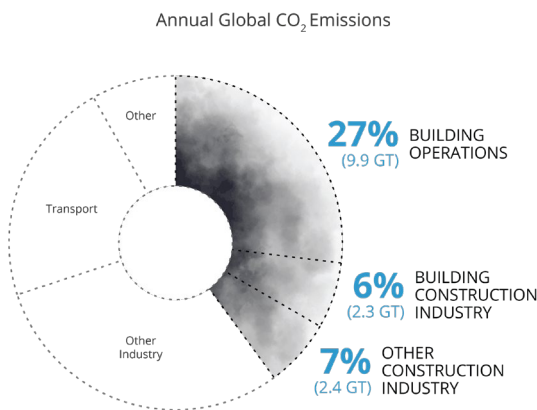
Healthy balanced work life <sup>^</sup>

by going into public. This is what prompted the stay at home scheme. People were to stay at home and only go out when necessary. Some jobs were considered necessary such as nurses and construction workers, So they were to work as usual. However people with jobs such as office workers were to work from home. <sup>2</sup>There was a seen increase in productivity and mental wellbeing. This was believed to be due to working in a more relaxed environment. When people are happy and calm they are observed to work harder and more efficiently while not being under stress or pressure.

Smaller studies have been conducted on the concept of a 4-day work week. However, for a problem this large I believe we need to go all out to fix the damage that has been caused by

ourselves and our ancestors. Regardless of what I think, The topic of a 4 day work week is still important to note. <sup>3</sup>Multiple and many companies have decided to actually remain with the 4 day week AFTER the tests that were run were over, Proving that higher chain of command in a business have seen and agree that it actually benefits their company, as well as having improved spirits and morale. <sup>3</sup>These tests were conducted with more than 3,000 workers who were pushing for the four day week to be the norm. These tests were also conducted with the workers keeping their original pay, Meaning that this change is fair to everyone. Especially the companies considering many of them saw an increase in productivity among workers, 95% of companies reported no change in productivity or an increase in productivity, Therefore showing a better balance for the people and the planet is possible with correct planning and trialling. Isn't that great? Benefits for the people AND the planet?

Believe it or not, This change can also help reduce death rates. While it's not a pleasant thing to talk about, It does have some significance in all this. Suicides make up a large part of deaths, as well as being commonly associated with work. <sup>4</sup>The male suicide rates show an indication that 0.0158% of men in England are likely to commit suicide, Which is the same figure as 79/5000 men. For women, it's 0.0055% are likely to commit suicide in England, This is the same as 11/2000, or for the sake of having equal figures, 27.5/5000. For a total of the world population, <sup>5</sup>The supposed approximate rate is 800,000 people globally, which is equivalent to 0.01% of the population Rates would've increased from the pandemic and worse state of the world currently. <sup>6</sup>Approximately 10% of suicides are work related. This stands at work based suicides being 0.001% of the worlds deaths. This figure can likely be reduced with the easing of time spent at work. While it's a small amount, you need to remember, every life is important, to someone's own self or to their family and friends.



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*Building Construction Industry and Other Construction Industry represent emissions from concrete, steel, and aluminum for buildings and infrastructure respectively.*

However this is still not the focus of this essay despite it being an important thing to our lives. The focus of all of this is about climate change. By removing office spaces from buildings, we can repurpose that empty useless space into something else. This can save the planet several gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>. <sup>7</sup>As of 2022, A combination of all sides of construction (Building Operations 27%, Building Construction Industry 6%, Other Construction Industry 7%) adds up to 40% of our carbon emissions being a direct result of construction. We can reduce the need for construction by reusing office spaces for other purposes.

#### Statistics of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions^

However we are losing sight of what matters in this, The clock that is inevitably ticking down until it's too late. By eliminating the unnecessary need for physical workplaces we can turn the fight against climate change around. It's time for action to be taken, and it needs to be drastic. Things need to change in our modern world and it should've started years ago.

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## **Images:**

Image 1: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/24/is-everyone-working-from-home-londons-3-sq-km-of-empty-offices>

Image 2: <https://www.johnlewis.com/content/electricals-tech/work-from-home-tech>

Image 3: <https://architecture2030.org/why-the-building-sector/>