



eChapter 15 Carbon Footprint

Carbon footprint is a term that represents a way of measuring the environmental impact of human activities based on the amount of greenhouse gases produced, defined as units of carbon dioxide.

[Click here](#) to calculate your carbon footprint, based on your annual use of electricity, gas, oil, coal, and various modes of transportation.

You Can Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

1. Use less electricity
 - Turn off lights and appliances when not in use
 - Replace your light bulbs with energy-savers
 - Reduce your home heating and air conditioning
 - Add home insulation and weatherproofing
 - Replace old home appliances with energy-savers
2. Travel less, especially by automobile
 - Plan your weekly shopping as a single trip
 - Carpool and ride-share with others
 - Use public transportation whenever possible
 - Walk or ride a bicycle on short trips (don't drive)
3. Buy local products to reduce the impact of shipping
 - Buy produce from local farms, and try to buy fruits and vegetables that are in season (out-of-season foods are shipped, trucked or flown from far away)
 - Better yet, plant a garden and grow some food
 - Avoid buying clothing and other goods that were made far away and shipped thousands of miles.

Off-Set Your Carbon Footprint

- Plant a tree (and donate to tree-planting groups)
- Donate energy-efficient technologies to others
- Invest in sustainable technology development.