

What is a Carbon Footprint, and why does it matter?

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We know our planet is warming up in different ways! Frozen water is melting causing a rise in the earth's water levels and an erosion of coastal areas.

Since the early nineteen hundreds sea levels have risen considerably. Oceans are getting warmer and more acidic which is destroying sea coral communities. The shells of sea animals are dissolving.

Weather has become more and more extreme with heat waves causing droughts and wildfires. Places in the world are experiencing stronger hurricanes and more tornadoes. There is more flooding in places that never flooded and snow in places that never got snow.

Animal plant habitats are being lost. We are seeing a loss of biodiversity. Agriculture is being threatened by heat. Farm yields are being threatened by needed and lack of water supplies. Farms are finding it difficult to keep up with needed water supplies which threatens yields.

What is a Carbon Footprint?

A Carbon Footprint is the total greenhouse gases emissions of carbon dioxide(CO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), methane (CH₄) and fluorinated gases released into the atmosphere caused both directly and indirectly by the lifestyle choices we make. A Carbon Footprint is measured in units called tonnes.

What we buy and consume, as well as what your organizations or businesses buy and consume, impacts a global Carbon Footprint. America's footprint is the highest in the world and reflects back how each and every persons lifestyle affects the United States and the rest of the world.

Humans can bring their Carbon Footprint down by looking at the choices they make and begin to change them. Individual and business activities are responsible for almost all of the increase in greenhouse gases over the past 150 years. This has been driving climate change on the planet.

Why does a Carbon Footprint matter?

Everything humans purchase has a Carbon Footprint. Individuals can alter their footprint by their personal shopping choices. To name a few: the food we select, energy sources and cars you drive. A Carbon Footprint calculator shows where and how much greenhouse gases are expelled in ones lifestyle.

Simplest actions like buying local food to making your next car a hybrid or electric can change ones Carbon Footprint. Eating less meat, conserving water while showering, buying less clothing which can end up in landfills, and turning off/unplugging appliances that are not in use (Phantom Load) including putting computers in sleep mode, or off.

Most importantly calling ones elected officials encouraging them to support solar and windmill energy sources that do not send out greenhouse gases like fossil fuels such as oil and gas.

If humans are responsible than humans have to take responsibility to change what is happening. Below, I have included resources to calculate one's Carbon Footprint score using what is known as a Carbon Footprint Calculator. They are free and fun to do. You can also just type and search for a Carbon Footprint Calculator on the internet and choose one you like.

The World Will Not Cool Down Without Your Effort!

Here are some Carbon Footprint Calculator sites, or search for one you like. There are many:

1. How many Earths do we need? - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33133712>

1. Carbon Footprint Calculator | Climate Change | US EPA

<https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

2. Carbon Footprint Calculator

<https://www.conservation.org/carbon-footprint-calculator#/>

3. 4: Calculate your carbon footprint – shrinkthatfootprint.com

<http://shrinkthatfootprint.com/calculate-your-carbon-footprint>

5. What is a carbon footprint? | Carbon Footprint Calculator | Nature Conservancy
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

6. How to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint - A Year of Living Better Guides - The New York Times
<https://www.nytimes.com/guides/year-of-living-better/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint>