

Calculating Your Household's Carbon Footprint

The phrase “household carbon footprint” is frequently used to describe the total CO₂ emissions associated with a household’s energy consumption, which includes transportation. Ask your parent or guardian for your household’s recent electric, gas, and/or oil bills so you can more accurately calculate your household’s carbon footprint. Since your energy bills vary by season, use an average of winter and summer values if you can.

Go to: <http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/> and when prompted, enter the number of people in your household along with your zip code. Then click “Get Started” and navigate through each section of online calculator to complete the worksheet.

1. Home Energy: According to the calculator, how many pounds of CO ₂ /year does your home generate through the use of natural gas, electricity, fuel oil and propane? <i>Add up the “pounds of CO₂ per year” amounts in each green box and place the total in the box to the right →</i>	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year
2. Home Energy Reduce your emissions: Scroll down to this section and complete this section for any <i>NEW</i> actions you plan to take that will result in reduced emissions. Any actions you are already taking are already reflected in your home energy bills. According to the calculator, how many pounds of CO ₂ will you save if you take these actions?	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year saved
3. Transportation: According to the calculator, how many pounds of CO ₂ /year does your household generate from transportation? <i>If your household has two or more vehicles, add up the “pounds of CO₂ per year” emitted by each vehicle and place the total in the box to the right →</i>	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year
4. Transportation Reduce transportation emissions: Scroll down to this section and complete this section for any <i>NEW</i> actions plan to take that will result in reduced vehicle emissions. According to the calculator, how many pounds of CO ₂ will you save if you take these actions?	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year saved
5. Waste: According to the calculator, how many pounds of CO ₂ /year does your household generate from waste <i>after recycling</i> is taken into account?	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year
6. Waste Reduce your emissions: Scroll down to this section and complete this section for any <i>NEW</i> recycling actions you plan to take that will result in reduced emissions. According to the calculator, how many pounds of CO ₂ will you save if you take these actions?	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year saved
7. The online calculator will estimate your household’s annual total carbon emissions (or you can add up the numbers from steps 1, 3 and 5 above). How many TOTAL pounds of CO ₂ does your household generate per year? This is your total carbon footprint before you take any <i>NEW</i> actions to reduce your footprint.	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year
8. According to the online calculator, what is the average carbon footprint for a household of your size in your zip code? Is your household carbon footprint bigger or smaller than the US average?	_____ lbs CO ₂ /year
9. THINK! Are there any aspects of your household’s energy consumption profile (e.g., air travel) that were not taken into account by this carbon calculator? If so, describe how your household carbon footprint would be altered if the online calculator took these items into account.	

