

# Carbon Footprint Calculator

Calculate your environmental impact on Earth.

Examine your lifestyle and engineer a plan to reduce your carbon footprint!

## What's a Carbon Footprint?

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a type of *greenhouse gas*. Many scientists believe that greenhouse gases make the earth warmer. Your carbon footprint represents the total amount of carbon dioxide you create. Reducing your carbon footprint benefits the earth.



## Sources of CO<sub>2</sub>

Carbon dioxide is created when you use energy produced by *fossil fuels* such as coal, oil, or natural gas. Power plants, factories, heaters, and automobiles produce CO<sub>2</sub>. Over time, household trash also emits CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Carbon Footprint Quiz

Circle your answers below and tally your score.

- How do you get to school?
  - car (4 points)
  - carpool (3 points)
  - bus (2 points)
  - walk or bike (1 point)
- Do you eat mostly...
  - fast food (2 points)
  - home cooked food (1 point)
- Do you eat mostly...
  - meat (3 points)
  - bread (2 points)
  - vegetables (1 point)
- Do you turn off the lights/TV when you leave the room?
  - never (3 points)
  - sometimes (2 points)
  - always (1 point)
- Do you turn off the water when brushing your teeth?
  - never (3 points)
  - sometimes (2 points)
  - always (1 point)
- How many bags of garbage does your family produce each week?
  - more than 3 (3 points)
  - 2-3 (2 points)
  - 1 bag (1 point)
- Do you recycle paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum?
  - no, we don't recycle (3 points)
  - yes, we recycle some of those items (2 points)
  - yes, we recycle all of those items (1 point)
- What type of bags do you use at the grocery store?
  - plastic (3 points)
  - paper (2 points)
  - reusable tote (1 point)

**My Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Carbon Footprint Challenge:

Design a plan to reduce your score! What actions can you take to change your answers?