



What is a Carbon Footprint?

What is a carbon footprint? Your carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide and methane) that are released into the air because of the energy you use every day. Each person needs transportation, electricity, food, clothing, and other goods, and these take energy to power or create.

For example, how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) would it take to create one cotton t-shirt?[1] (1 kilogram of CO₂ is produced by driving about 2.5 miles in a car).

- Cultivating the cotton = 1 kilogram of CO₂
- Spinning cotton thread = 1 kilogram of CO₂
- Making the cloth = 3 kilograms of CO₂
- Dying the cloth = 0.01 kilogram of CO₂ per wear
- Packing, storing, and shipping = 3 kilograms of CO₂

So buying one cotton t-shirt is roughly equivalent to driving 20 miles in a car. Think of how many t-shirts a single family has... it adds up!

How Can We Reduce our Carbon Footprint?



Reduce

Avoiding buying unnecessary items is the best way to reduce your material carbon footprint

Reuse

Reusing items extends the life of the product and fewer items are needed

Recycle

Recycling reuses plastics and metals that have already been processed, so it takes less energy to recycle the material into something else



REDUCE ENERGY USE AND USE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Lower your energy use around the house – lower power demand requires less fossil fuels.



Carpool or use public transit – driving together is more energy efficient.

Use solar, wind, or other renewable energy where possible.





REDUCING OUR

Footprint

ON THE EARTH

