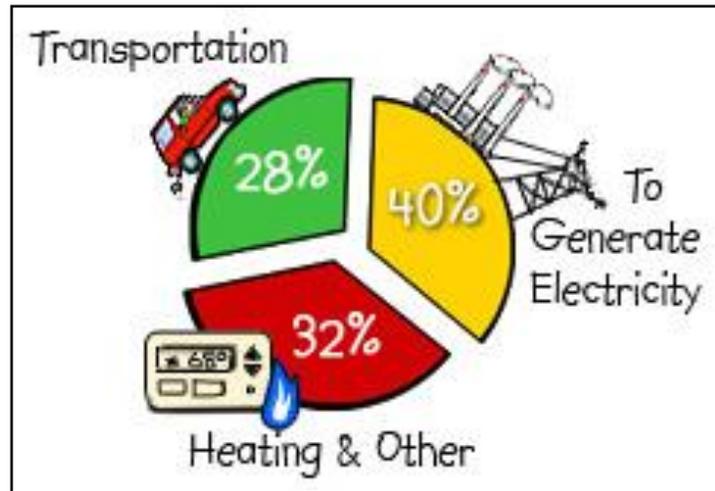




## CALCULATING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

A **Carbon Footprint** is an estimate of how much carbon dioxide an individual, a family or even a business produces. Since carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, a carbon footprint can give you an idea of how much you contribute to global

warming. Think of your carbon footprint as a measure of your impact on the environment. For example, when driving a car, the engine burns fuel, which creates a certain amount of  $CO_2$ , depending on its fuel consumption and the driving distance. ( $CO_2$  is



the chemical symbol for carbon dioxide). Heating a house with oil, gas or coal, also generates  $CO_2$ . Even if a house is heated with electricity, the generation of the electrical power may also have a certain amount of  $CO_2$  since almost half of the electricity generated in this country comes from coal. The production of the food, clothing and other things people purchase also emits large quantities of  $CO_2$ .

Having a small carbon footprint is obviously better than having a large one, and a good goal is becoming what is known as "**carbon neutral**." That's when the combination of all your activities releases the same amount of  $CO_2$  as they absorb. When you are "carbon neutral," your carbon footprint is zero.

## FAMILY SURVEY

Answer each question for a yearly total (multiply a monthly total by 12).

1. Number of miles driven per year \_\_\_\_\_ X (multiplied by) the vehicle's average gas mileage \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ gallons of gasoline used.  
(Do this for each vehicle your family owns)

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

2. Number of miles of air travel for your family \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Average number of miles your family travels by bus/other mass transit \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Kilowatt-hours of electricity used \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(Look at your utility bill to find out a monthly amount and multiply by 12.)
5. **Therms** of natural gas used \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(Look at your utility bill to find out a monthly amount and multiply by 12.)
6. Gallons of propane or bottled gas used \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. Other sources of energy your family uses?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Total number of people living in your household \_\_\_\_\_ .



Your "Footprint" on the Global Environment - Use the information you gathered in your Family Survey to calculate how much  $CO_2$  you generate per year. Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

1. Gallons of gasoline used \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  22 pounds  $CO_2$ /gallon = \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Miles of air travel \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  0.9 pounds/mile = \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Miles on mass transit \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  0.5 pounds/mile = \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Kilowatt hours \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  1.5 pounds/ kWh = \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Therms natural gas \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  11 pounds/therm = \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Gallons of propane \_\_\_\_\_  $\times$  13 pounds/gallon = \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Total pounds of  $CO_2$  generated (add up the numbers on the right) \_\_\_\_\_.

9. Total pounds generated  $\times$  number of people in your household = \_\_\_\_\_

(Total You and your family Generated)



**How can you reduce you and your family's impact?**

In the space below, write down some actions that you and your family could do to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide you are emitting.

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