



## Your Carbon Footprint

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

The carbon footprint of a person is the total amount of carbon emitted based on his or her daily actions and choices. A carbon footprint is measured based on factors such as fossil fuel consumption, food consumption, goods and services bought, as well as housing conditions. The Nature Conservancy has an interactive site where you can answer questions to measure your own carbon footprint. This website allows you to see how much carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) you emit per year measured in metric tons. Follow the outline below in order to obtain your own personal footprint. You might need to ask your parents to provide some information so you can accurately complete the questions in the carbon footprint calculator.

1. Go to the website <http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm>.
2. Read the instructions and select "For Me Only" because this exercise is for measuring your personal emissions. Use the survey to answer background questions as well as questions about household vehicles, home energy, and waste disposal. Answer the questions based on your personal or family lifestyle.
3. The second part of the survey estimates carbon output associated with your home energy usage. In the United States, most CO<sub>2</sub> is from energy generation. This part of the survey measures how much CO<sub>2</sub> you are responsible for emitting as a result of using electricity in your house. Answer the questions as accurately as possible.
4. The third part of the survey is based on your fossil fuel consumption associated with travel.
5. The fourth part of the survey evaluates how your choice of food and your diet affects your carbon emissions. Depending on the type of food, the amount of meat, and where you buy your food, your emissions will vary.
6. The final part of the quiz evaluates your level of waste and the impact that recycling has on it. If you recycle on a regular basis, your carbon estimate will be smaller. This is because recycled material requires less carbon to process than extracting and processing new resources.
7. Upon completing the survey, the results will display how much CO<sub>2</sub> you produce yearly as a result of your choices. Your results will be given in short tons. In a smaller font, at the bottom of the results box, you'll see your results in metric tons. This is the number you should record in step 8. You will see your results compared to the national average, and you will be provided with options to decrease your carbon emissions.
8. Record your results: \_\_\_\_\_ metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
9. Are the results surprising to you? Why or why not?
10. What variable do you think was most responsible for your CO<sub>2</sub> emission rate? \_\_\_\_\_

