

NAME _____ DATE _____

Carbon Footprint Calculator at Home

Tree Canada has a carbon footprint calculator that helps individuals, families or organisations calculate their greenhouse gas emissions over the course of one year, based on energy used by their building and for transportation. The calculator will also tell you how many trees you would need to plant to offset these carbon emissions.

STEP 1: Do background research.

Find out which types of energy you use at home (for heating the house, heating water, cooking, powering appliances, etc.) by asking your parents. Put a checkmark next to the ones you use. With your parents' help, estimate the total amount of each type of energy you use at home from the following list:

- natural gas used in one year (m³) = _____
- electricity used in one year (kwh) = _____
- kerosene used in one year (litres) = _____
- propane used in one year (litres) = _____
- heating oil used in one year (litres) = _____

STEP 2: Estimate distances travelled.

Think back and estimate the total number of kilometres you have travelled this past year by plane, car, bus, train and other means: _____

STEP 3: Calculate your footprint.

Go online and access the Tree Canada carbon footprint calculator: <https://treecanada.ca/reforestation-carbon-offsetting/carbon-offsetting/carbon-calculator/>. Enter your data for energy and transportation. Make estimates as needed.

STEP 4: Record your results.

Total energy use in one year (tonnes of CO₂): _____

Number of trees you must plant to offset your emissions for one year: _____

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STEP 5: Think about your results.

Are your results surprising? Is there anything you can do to reduce your footprint further? Make notes here.

STEP 6: Compare carbon footprint calculators.

There are many different calculators online. Choose at least one other one and note the main differences here:

Career Corner



NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMISTS

study the economic effects of decisions about natural resource use. They may analyse the costs and benefits of different options or use sophisticated computer programs to model various scenarios.