

# What's Your Carbon Footprint?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a naturally occurring greenhouse gas which helps trap the sun's heat on earth, keeping our planet a livable temperature. Our use of fossil fuels releases excess CO<sub>2</sub> and is causing the climate to change.

You can calculate your personal "carbon footprint," or the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that you and your family create through daily life: by heating your home, using electricity, and driving. You can also find ways to reduce your carbon footprint on back of this page.

## Heating Fuel: Check the type of fuel used in your home.

- Propane: emission factor 12.8 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/gal
- #2 Heating Oil: emission factor 22.4 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/gal
- Natural Gas: emission factor 12.6 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/therm<sup>1</sup>
- Firewood: emission factor 0 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/cord\*
- Wood Pellets: emission factor 0 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/ton\*

\*While burning wood does release CO<sub>2</sub> into the air, it is considered "carbon neutral."

	_____	×	_____	×	_____	=	_____
fuel name	emission factor for fuel selected (see above)		gallons or therms used monthly		months in a year		pounds of CO <sub>2</sub> per year

## Electricity Use: Look for the number of KWH you used on your home's last electric bill.

_____	×	<u>0.9 lb CO<sub>2</sub> /KWH</u>	×	_____	=	_____
KWH used per month		average New England emission factor		months in a year		pounds of CO <sub>2</sub> per year

## Transportation: Keep track of how many miles your family drives in one month.

To figure out your car's MPG, go to [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).

Gas	<u>19.5 lb CO<sub>2</sub> /gal</u>	×	_____	÷	_____	×	_____	=	_____
	emission factor for gasoline		miles driven monthly		your car's MGP* (miles per gallon)		months in a year		pounds of CO <sub>2</sub> per year

or

Diesel	<u>22.4 lb CO<sub>2</sub> /gal</u>	×	_____	÷	_____	×	_____	=	_____
	emission factor for gasoline		miles driven monthly		your car's MGP* (miles per gallon)		months in a year		pounds of CO <sub>2</sub> per year

## TOTAL HOUSEHOLD CARBON FOOTPRINT

Add the totals you calculated for heating, electricity and transportation.

\_\_\_\_\_

pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per year

*Turn to the other side to see how you can reduce your carbon footprint by 2%!*

