



Carbon Footprint: Show Me the Numbers!

Making environmentally sustainable choices is a constant challenge. We often need more knowledge about day to day choices and how these actions actually make a difference. In short, we want numbers! Even with more knowledge, many of us lack the encouragement of others to challenge us to change. In this Earth Day issue of Green Matters, we attempt to provide a little bit of both.

What is a carbon footprint?

"A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment, and in particular, climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation, etc. The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent." -- www.CarbonFootprint.com

Figure out your individual footprint

Use the [Oregon DEQ Carbon Calculator](#). It calculates your total carbon footprint based on your behavior and compares it to local baseline data for Oregon. See how you measure up compared to other Oregonians, other Americans, and the rest of the world!

Why is this important?

How much good will reducing your footprint really do? To figure out what this actually means, go to the EPA's [Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#). The Equivalencies Results section provides great background info and will convert your emissions into tangible numbers like the equivalent number of cars removed from the road.

Motivate yourself into action

According to our recent survey, 86% of OMF respondents would consider joining a competition between bureaus to reduce our environmental impact. After some discussion, we thought it would be more fun to form one BIG team to compete against other cities and organizations as we reduce our carbon footprint. Join the [City of Portland Employee Team](#) at www.CarbonRally.com and help us compete against other cities and organizations! It takes about 3 minutes to join and you will not be spammed. Carbonrally.com provides practical challenges and actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint. Check out these challenges submitted by CarbonRally members:

- Learn to pack a waste-free lunch for one month and reduce your CO2 emissions by 44.6 lbs and save about \$20 (this popular challenge is called [Green Ham & Cheese](#))
- Give up paper towels for one month and reduce CO2 emissions by 5.8 lbs and save \$8. [Learn More](#)

[Read more innovative challenges](#) and start reducing your carbon footprint today!



Learn More

What innovative policies are other industrialized countries implementing to reduce their carbon footprint? Attend our Earth Day brown bag event on April 22 noon-1pm in the Portland Bld auditorium and find out!

Brought to you by the OMF Green Roots Team

Electronic versions are available at www.portlandonline.com/OMF/GreenMatters