

Calculate and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Student Inquiry

Overview

You will use Internet-based research and the New Zealand Landcare Research carbon footprint calculator to calculate your own carbon footprint and plan ways to reduce it.

Key Questions

1. What is a carbon footprint?
2. Why should carbon footprints matter?
3. How can I calculate my carbon footprint?
4. What action(s) could I take to reduce my carbon footprint and be more energy efficient?
5. What are any positive or negative effects of my taking this action/ these actions?
6. What action(s) do I want to take and why?

Resources

CarboNZero

This Landcare Research website has practical ideas to reduce your personal carbon footprint and to make energy savings.

<http://www.carbonzero.co.nz/steps/manage.asp>

Landcare Research's Carbon Calculator

To use Landcare Research's carbon calculator you will need to register on the website and then determine what information you will need to gather before you can complete the calculation. This is the only New Zealand based carbon footprint calculator.

<http://www.carbonzero.co.nz/EmissionsCalc/login.aspx>

Sustainability

The website provides an overview of energy sustainability issues. Students can register and use the 'Next step plan' to plan their energy efficient actions.

<http://www.sustainability.govt.nz>

Department of Building and Housing

The website provides useful information on how to have a more cost-effective home. Click on the 'Publications' tab, then go to 'Your Guide to a Smarter Home' in the 'What's New' sidebar.

<http://www.dbh.govt.nz>

Energywise

This website offers information about which appliances use the most energy and where you can make savings.

<http://www.eeca.govt.nz/sites/all/files/action-sheet-4-choosing-and-using-appliances-11-09.pdf>

You can also develop an energy saving plan using the Energywise checklist.

http://www.eeca.govt.nz/sites/all/files/eeca_checklist.pdf

Consumer

Under 'Related Links', click on Saving Energy, then read the following Highlights: 'Quick tips' and 'Savings around the home'.

You can also try the 'Savings with appliances' calculator.

<http://www.consumer.org.nz/powerswitch>

Fuel\$aver

If you or your family own a car, use the Land Transport NZ calculator to see how fuel-efficient your car is and compare costs. Click on 'Fuel Myths and Tips'.

<http://www.fuelsaver.govt.nz/>