Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey

Campus Monterrey



Ethics, sustainability and social responsibility

Report of reduction of the ecological footprint: Part 1

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Current Situation

In my opinion I have an average house, it is about 194 m² and 266 m² built where only me, my parents, my brother, and my two chihuahuas live. We have a medium backyard, 3 restrooms and 4 rooms. But we do generate a lot of garbage since my mother works with a laser machine and tries to waste as little as possible with everything she cuts, but in the end it is always a lot, but apart from that we don't have a lot of waste and we separate it as organic and inorganic, and about each week we dispose it (not including the laser machine waste).

We have 3 cars and they are used everyday because of my dad's work and me and my brother have to go to the Tec, but we have completely opposite schedules so we don't have a lot of options.

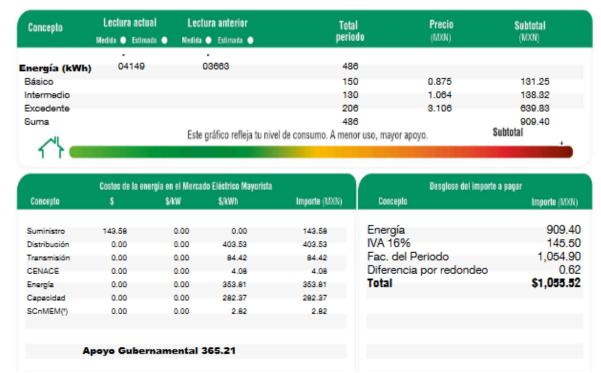
In the consumables we have a 300 liter LP gas tank, but now we don't use it as much as before since we bought two 100 liter water tank which heats with the power of the sun, a 6 burner stove with an oven, a dishwasher (which we barely use), a washing machine and a dryer

Results



Utility Bills

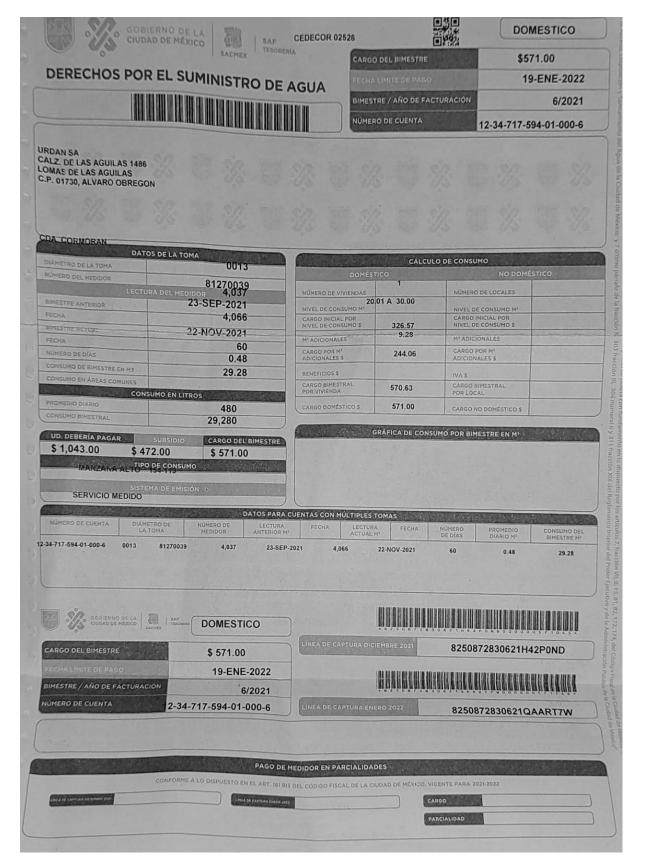
Electricity



Gas



Water



Good Environmental Practices

- Not leaving any unused electronics on.
- Get Solar Panels to lower the environmental impact and costs.
- Reduce the time spent on computers/television.
- At maximum take 5 minute showers.
- Use as little water as possible to wash the dishes.
- Always close the water tap while brushing my teeth.
- Use solar heated water instead of gas.
- Use electric alternatives for gas (i.e. electric stoves)
- Try to use cold water instead of hot water to save gas.

Letter of Commitment

My ecological footprint is clearly not the best, but I think most of those who have answered the Ecological Footprint Calculator also have pretty bad (or worse) results. As humanity it is our responsibility to take care of our planet, because no one else will and it is everyone's home. In this letter I promise to do whatever I can to at least improve my surroundings and convince those who surround me, so together we can make a positive impact in our environment and guarantee a better future.

As my first commitment, I will turn off every electronic that is not necessary or isn't used. I will also avoid using my PC for too long and will find other things to do as entertainment to minimize using my computer and thus lower the high cost of electricity my house already has (as seen on the Electricity bill, we have a very high electricity usage). **Estimated electricity reduction: 20**%

My second commitment is to lower the water usage. When washing the dishes I will try to use the minimum water I need to complete that task, this also applies when I'm taking a shower (sometimes it would take me more than 20 minutes to finish taking a bath). This will significantly lower our water consumption which is awful to realize in our house we consumed 29,280 liters of water (as seen on the Water bill).

Estimated water reduction: 10%

My third commitment is to convince my parents to stop using gas as a heater. Even though we have solar heaters, in the mornings we have to turn on the gas if we want hot water. From now on I will take baths when the water is hot due to the solar heater, and I will try to convince my parents and my brother to do the same. Also try to get an electric stove and oven to eliminate the use of gas, which is very expensive. **Estimated gas reduction: 90%**

As my fourth commitment, I will definitely lower my meat consumption. I do eat a lot of meat, and sometimes I feel guilty, because I know it causes a lot of land, food and water to waste for a few kg of meat. I am very open with other alternatives, and as much as I love meat, I also love plant based foods and if it is for the best, maybe I won't eliminate it completely but I will lower my consumption.

My fifth commitment is to carpool on my way to school. I know a lot of friends who live near me, and it would be perfect if we had the same schedule, but that is not the case for most of them. We would have to take turns and wake really early for those who start at 7 am. It will be hard but it deserves a try. And with this we can lower our costs of gasoline significantly.

My final commitment is to improve the way we manage our garbage. With my mom's work we have a lot of waste but it can be recycled, one way or another (I will have to

do a deep research for that). And also get a third bin, a recycle bin and do the best for our environment.

These commitments will take their time, some less than others, but I will do my best to achieve them, and convince my friends and family to follow these steps so we can help our surroundings and thus, ourselves.