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**Carbon Footprint**

A carbon footprint is the overall environmental impact of a company, individual, society, organization, or product. Overall, this is the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO2).. Definite calculations can prove to be nearly impossible due to the magnitude of associated variables.

**Sources**

Most of the carbon footprint emissions for the average U.S. household come from indirect sources. This means that a majority of the emissions that are produces do not involve the consumer; these are generally released during manufacturing or shipping.

The main influences on carbon footprints include population, economic output, and energy and carbon intensity of the economy.

**Measurement**

A carbon footprint estimate can help one understand their impact and the natural resources they use and/or waste. This measurement can be seen as an effective tool for setting lifestyle goals or changes to becoming more sustainable.

Online calculators are available for individual use – such calculators can provide an individual with an average count of planets necessary to sustain their lifestyle. While organizations may calculate the emissions associate with their process to produce a more accurate company profile.