

*Corporations and consumers do share joint responsibility for environmental sustainability.*

*Corporations make decisions about business models, manufacturing processes, transportation logistics and more that directly impact emissions, waste, natural resource usage, and other facets of environmental footprints. Meanwhile, individual lifestyle choices about housing, transportation, diet, and consumption habits also influence environmental outcomes. Sustainable development requires better decisions at both the production and consumption ends of economic activity.*

*As inhabitants of this planet, we all have an ethical obligation to understand how our choices and behaviors impact the environment. Learning one's personal carbon footprint through online calculators or tracking tools is a starting point to perceive our role. Beyond just facts and figures, becoming aware of linkages like how eating meat or food waste contributes to climate change, or how plastics pollution harms marine life, helpfully informs our obligations.*

*Those with greater financial means do bear heightened obligations because they have more discretionary income that could be directed at environmentally friendly choices. Still, some degree of responsibility rests with all who can make at least certain lifestyle changes or selective consumption decisions that lighten environmental impact. We all have spheres of influence.*

*Societal decisions around environmental obligations should balance ethical priorities, scientific realities, and economic expediencies. As such policymaking requires input from ethicists and activists, scientists, and researchers, as well as economic analysts, business interests, and impacted communities. Robust public discourse and openness to creative policy solutions can lead to the best societal outcomes. Certainly, governmental regulation has a major role to play as do market-based mechanisms.*

*In summary, sustaining our shared environmental future necessitates better decisions by both corporations and consumers, guided by ethical obligations tempered with economic pragmatism and scientific facts. Societal decisions arise from inclusive public debates weighing priorities.*

*References:*

*Byars, S. M., & Stanberry, K. (2019). Business ethics. OpenStax College and Rice University.*

*Retrieved from: <https://openstax.org/details/books/business-ethics>*