### Surveys from Hikers

### 1. What does the term "carbon footprint" mean to you?

Responses:

H1: "I think it's about how much we contribute to pollution and global warming through our daily activities."

H2: "Carbon footprint? Oh yeah, it's like the mark we leave on the environment with all the stuff we do, right?"

H3: "I've heard it's something to do with measuring the amount of carbon dioxide produced because of our lifestyle choices.

H4: "To be honest, I've come across the term but I'm not exactly sure what it entails."

H5: "Carbon footprint is like the ecological mark we leave behind due to our actions, especially related to energy consumption."

H6: "I think it's something related to how much pollution we create by using cars and stuff, right?"

H7: "Isn't it the measure of how much greenhouse gases we produce through our actions? Like driving cars or using electricity?"

H8: "Carbon footprint is like the mark we leave behind on the environment due to our activities, especially those that release carbon dioxide."

H9: "I think it's a way of calculating how much our lifestyle contributes to global warming and pollution.

H10: "It's about the carbon dioxide emissions we produce because of our daily activities, like using transportation and energy.

H11: "Oh, that's got to do with our impact on the planet, right? Like the amount of carbon dioxide we release into the air.

H12: "Carbon footprint is a term that measures our personal impact on the environment in terms of carbon dioxide emissions.

H 13: "It's like the ecological footprint we leave behind due to our actions, particularly related to burning fossil fuels

H14:"I've heard it's the total amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are produced because of what we do.

H15: "I think it's a way to understand how our activities, like driving cars and using electricity, affect the Earth's climate."

H16:"Carbon footprint is all about how our actions contribute to the buildup of greenhouse gases and climate change."

H17:I believe it's the measure of how much carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere as a result of our daily choices.

H 18: "Carbon footprint is a way of calculating how much we're impacting the environment by our energy consumption and other activities."

### Question 2-

## Are you aware of the environmental effects of carbon footprints, especially in the context of hiking and outdoor activities?

- H 1: "Yeah, I know that hiking and camping can lead to things like deforestation and air pollution, but I'm not sure about the specifics."
- H 2: "Definitely, hiking and outdoor activities can contribute to soil erosion and damage to natural habitats."
- H 3: "I've read about how hiking can lead to soil compaction and disturb wildlife. It's a concern."
- H 4: "I haven't really thought about it, but now that you mention it, I realize our actions even in nature can have consequences."
- H 5: "Outdoor activities can lead to trail degradation and water pollution. It's something we should all be conscious of."
- H 6: "I've never really thought about it, but I'm just here to enjoy nature when I go hiking."
- H 7: "I know that hiking and camping can have some impact, but I'm not sure about the specifics."
- H 8: "Yeah, I've heard that hiking can lead to soil erosion and damage to natural habitats."
- H 9: "To be honest, I haven't really considered how hiking might contribute to carbon footprints and the environment."
- H 10: "I think hiking can lead to things like trail degradation and waste generation, which affects the environment."
- H 11: "I'm aware that outdoor activities like hiking can add to the overall carbon footprint, but I don't know the details."

- H 12: "I've read that hiking can disturb local ecosystems and contribute to pollution in some ways."
- H 13: "I know that hiking can sometimes lead to littering and soil compaction, which are not great for the environment."
- H 14: "Hiking might impact the environment by trampling vegetation and disturbing wildlife habitats, I think."
- H 15: "I'm familiar with the idea that even outdoor activities have consequences, but I don't know the specifics."

#### **Question 3:**

# Have you taken any steps to reduce your carbon footprint while hiking or in your daily life?

- H 1: "I've never really thought about it, but now that you mention it, I'll consider it in the future."
- H 2: "Definitely. I try to carpool with friends to reduce emissions and avoid using disposable plastics during hikes."
- H 3: "I'm still learning about ways to reduce my footprint, but I've started by using biodegradable soap during camping trips."
- H 4: "I try to avoid using single-use plastics during hikes, but I haven't done much beyond that."
- H 5: "Absolutely, I've switched to a reusable water bottle and pack out all my trash when I hike."
- H 6: "I'm working on it. I've started taking public transportation instead of driving to the trailhead."
- H 7: "Yes, I've been using energy-efficient appliances and turning off lights when not needed to reduce energy consumption."
- H 8: "I recycle and compost regularly, and I've also started using solar-powered chargers during hiking trips."
- H 9: "I'm trying to be more conscious about my food choices. I've been eating less meat to lower my carbon footprint."
- H 10: "I've been researching eco-friendly camping gear and trying to make sustainable choices for my outdoor adventures."

- H 11: "I've been investing in reusable hiking gear and camping equipment to minimize waste and the need for replacements."
- H 12: "I've been exploring ways to use renewable energy sources at home and trying to opt for greener transportation options."
- H 13: "I participate in organized clean-up events whenever I hike, to help maintain the trails and keep the environment clean."
- H 14: "I've been reducing water waste by using a water filter system instead of relying on bottled water during my hikes."
- H 15: "I'm part of a hiking group that advocates for responsible hiking practices, and we encourage each other to follow Leave No Trace principles."

#### **Question 4:**

### How do you think hikers can collectively contribute to minimizing their impact on the environment?

- H 1: "Hikers could participate in trail restoration projects and also raise awareness about the importance of preserving these areas."
- H 2: "Creating a culture of picking up litter, even if it's not yours, can have a positive impact on keeping these places clean."
- H 3: "If hikers could coordinate group transportation to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, it would help cut down emissions."
- H 4: "Supporting organizations that work toward conservation and advocating for stricter regulations on hiking and camping practices could be effective."
- H 5: "Organizing workshops to educate hikers about the local ecosystem and its fragility could help prevent unintentional damage."
- H 6: "Sharing information about eco-friendly camping gear and practices on social media can inspire more hikers to make sustainable choices."

- H 7: "Hikers should encourage each other to minimize campfire use and opt for portable stoves instead to reduce fire risks."
- H 8: "Hikers can volunteer their time for trail maintenance and restoration projects to help keep the trails in good condition."
- H 9: "Choosing designated campsites and following established paths can prevent soil erosion and damage to fragile vegetation."
- H 10: "Educating fellow hikers about Leave No Trace principles and proper waste disposal could make a big difference."
- H 11: "Organizing regular clean-up events within the hiking community can help remove trash and litter from popular trails."
- H 12: "Creating and sharing guides on responsible hiking practices can help newcomers understand how to minimize their impact."
- H 13: "Hiking clubs and groups can partner with local conservation organizations to promote eco-friendly practices among hikers."
- H 14: "Encouraging hikers to take only photos and leave only footprints can remind everyone of the importance of preserving nature."
- H 15: "Establishing and respecting wildlife protection zones can help prevent disturbances to sensitive animal habitats."

#### **Question 5:**

## Are there any challenges you face in trying to reduce your carbon footprint during hiking trips?

- H 1: "Finding eco-friendly camping gear that's also affordable can be a bit of a challenge."
- H 2: "Sometimes, it's hard to find public transportation options to get to remote trailheads."
- H 3: "Cooking without leaving a carbon footprint can be tricky; we need to find alternatives to traditional campfires."
- H 4: "Balancing the convenience of pre-packaged hiking foods with sustainability is something I struggle with."
- H 5: "It's tough to convince all the members of my hiking group to follow eco-friendly practices consistently."
- H 31: "Finding eco-friendly camping gear that's also affordable can be a bit of a challenge."
- H 32: "Sometimes, it's hard to find public transportation options to get to remote trailheads."
- H 33: "Cooking without leaving a carbon footprint can be tricky; we need to find alternatives to traditional campfires."
- H 34: "Balancing the convenience of pre-packaged hiking foods with sustainability is something I struggle with."
- H 35: "It's tough to convince all the members of my hiking group to follow eco-friendly practices consistently."
- H 36: "Not all trailheads have proper waste disposal facilities, making it challenging to dispose of trash responsibly."

- H 37: "Reducing single-use plastics can be tough, especially when there aren't many recycling options on the trail."
- H 38: "Finding lightweight and compact eco-friendly alternatives for things like toiletries can be a bit of a challenge."
- H 39: "Navigating through strict fire bans in some areas means I need to rely on other methods for cooking and staying warm."
- H 40: "Limited access to clean water sources sometimes forces me to carry more water, which adds to my hiking load."

### **Question 6:**

Do you believe that taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint can make a difference in preserving the natural beauty of places like Kheerganga?

- H 1: "I hope so, even if it's a small difference. But it requires everyone's commitment."
- H 2: "Absolutely, I think if we all make conscious choices, these places can remain unspoiled for generations."
- H 3: "While it might not be an overnight change, collective efforts can definitely add up and protect these pristine spots."
- H 4: "Honestly, I'm not sure if my actions alone will do much, but if enough people join in, it can create a significant impact."
- H 5: "Yes, the more we raise awareness and act responsibly, the better the chances of preserving the natural beauty of places like Kheerganga."

#### **Our Addition**

**Absolutely, Every Bit Counts**: Taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint can definitely make a significant difference in preserving the natural beauty of places like Kheerganga. By adopting eco-friendly practices like using renewable energy sources, minimizing waste, and choosing sustainable transportation options, we collectively contribute to reducing air and water pollution. This, in turn, helps maintain the pristine environment and breathtaking landscapes that draw people to such places.

A Vital Role in Conservation: Yes, reducing your carbon footprint plays a vital role in conserving the natural beauty of places like Kheerganga. Carbon emissions contribute to climate change, which can lead to more extreme weather patterns, melting glaciers, and habitat loss. By making conscious choices like reducing energy consumption and supporting responsible tourism practices, we can help ensure that these areas remain untouched by the negative impacts of human activity.

**Preserving for Future Generations**: Without a doubt, minimizing your carbon footprint has a direct impact on preserving the natural beauty of destinations like Kheerganga. By using cleaner energy sources and practicing sustainable habits, we help protect the delicate ecosystems and biodiversity that make these places so unique. By doing our part today, we're ensuring that future generations can also experience and enjoy these untouched wonders.

A Chain Reaction of Change: Yes, reducing your carbon footprint has a cascading effect on preserving the allure of places like Kheerganga. When individuals adopt greener habits, they inspire others to do the same. This domino effect can lead to reduced pollution, healthier ecosystems, and enhanced resilience against the effects of climate change, which ultimately safeguards the natural beauty of such locations.

**Balancing Human Enjoyment and Conservation**: Certainly, taking measures to lower your carbon footprint has a direct impact on maintaining the natural beauty of places like Kheerganga. As more people visit these sites, it's crucial to strike a balance between human enjoyment and environmental conservation. By minimizing our carbon emissions through sustainable travel, waste reduction, and eco-friendly practices, we ensure that these stunning landscapes remain pristine for years to come.

**Mitigating Ecological Disruption**: Yes, reducing your carbon footprint is a key step in mitigating ecological disruption and preserving places like Kheerganga. Elevated carbon emissions contribute to global warming, which can lead to habitat loss, altered landscapes, and reduced biodiversity. By making eco-conscious choices, we contribute to the overall health of these ecosystems and help maintain their natural splendor.

**Guardians of Natural Wonders**: Certainly, embracing a low-carbon lifestyle makes us guardians of natural wonders like Kheerganga. Carbon emissions from human activities contribute to air pollution and climate change, which threaten the very essence of these places. By choosing sustainable habits and advocating for responsible tourism, we play a vital role in ensuring that these landscapes remain breathtaking for generations to come.

**Empowering Sustainable Travel**: Yes, reducing your carbon footprint empowers sustainable travel practices, thereby safeguarding the allure of places like Kheerganga. The tourism industry, when not managed carefully, can lead to environmental degradation. By being mindful of our carbon impact, we contribute to the preservation of these areas and promote a more responsible approach to experiencing their natural beauty.

**Mitigating Human Footprint**: Absolutely, reducing your carbon footprint is instrumental in mitigating the human footprint on places like Kheerganga. The carbon emissions from various human activities can accelerate environmental changes, threatening the beauty of these locations. By adopting eco-friendly behaviors, we help minimize our negative impact and ensure that these landscapes retain their pristine charm.

Connecting Personal Choices to Preservation: Yes, taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint directly connects your personal choices to the preservation of places like Kheerganga. Every action you take to minimize carbon emissions, such as using less energy, supporting sustainable transportation, and minimizing waste, contributes to the protection of these breathtaking environments and their natural splendor.