**Carbon Footprint Calculators: Overview**

Students can work in pairs or alone to determine your carbon footprint. Choose and complete at least three footprint calculators, and record your results after each. If your footprint is slightly different (or very different) write down some possibilities as to why that is. Note that calculating an individual’s carbon footprint is not quite an exact science and organizations have different methods of calculation. Each method is slightly biased either through including a specific metric or by avoiding another. Most encourage reducing footprints, but through a variety of methods with varying estimations of success (for example, some do not mention diet at all, while others focus on diet specifically).

**The calculators:**

**Global Footprint Network** (nonprofit) - <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/signup> a very colorful analysis that requires an email address to begin. Very easy to fill out and requires no knowledge of electric bills (very basic guesses). Has a number of sliders and takes society into account meaning it is impossible for students in the US to live within the bounds of one planet. Why do you think this is? Contains a quick analysis of consumption and many ways to explore carbon reduction. Provides info on ecological footprint (gha) CO2 emissions, breaks it down by category.

**Environmental Protection Agency** (government agency) - <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/> Analysis includes only energy, transportation, and waste. No analysis of diet, no analysis of resource use, no analysis of flights or vacations. Allows complete transparency in that you can download an excel sheet and look at the specific calculations done. Provides details on CO2emissions only. Some info required (such as utility use) is very detailed.

**Carbon Footprint** (corporation) - <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> Very detailed calculator that does not include diet, but does include detailed analysis of the price paid each year on pharmaceuticals, hotels, clothes, etc. Perhaps the most detailed free calculator, but difficult to estimate if you do not know the make and model cars, source of your electricity, etc. Encourages funding for carbon offset projects and signing up for a newsletter.

**The Nature Conservancy** (nonprofit) - <https://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm> simple and detailed calculator that is mostly done by slider. Some questions might be difficult to estimate, but most answers are easy to guess. Provides answer in tons of CO2 per year and then directs to methods to take action that primarily focus on transportation and housing. Provides basic comparison to others and encourages a donation to offset your carbon footprint.

**BSCS Science learning** (nonprofit with government funding) - <http://carbonconnections.bscs.org/curriculum/unit-03/carbon_calculator/index.php> carbon calculator created with funding by the Nature Conservancy and is very similar to their pre-existing calculator, but allows you to calculate your footprint for you individually rather than your whole household. Very simple calculator that allows you to compare your results to the average. However, the solution to “offset your footprint” is a direct request for a donation.