

Carbon footprints

SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3036S_EN

LANGUAGE
English



lingoda

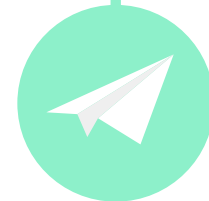




Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a technical text about carbon footprints and global warming.
- Can evaluate the political response to these issues and express my conclusions tactfully.





There has yet to be a **coordinated political response** to one of the great issues of our time – **global warming**.

As more carbon gets released into the atmosphere, **global temperatures** continue to rise.

The only solution is to manage and restrict our **carbon output**.



Carbon footprints

What do you already know
about carbon footprints?

Tell your teacher.





Consequences

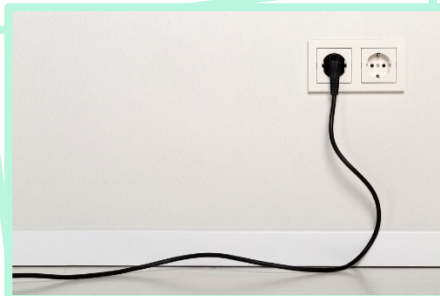
Where does carbon (CO₂) in the atmosphere come from?





Discuss the pictures

**Describe what you see in each of the photographs.
What could the link between these pictures be? What do they have in common? Talk to the teacher.**





Carbon footprints

In the age of greenhouse gases and CO₂ emissions, responsible individuals need to be aware of their carbon footprint. When you drive a car, take a flight, use electricity or even purchase something man-made, you are contributing to the total amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of human activity.

A carbon footprint is a metaphor for describing the impact of a behaviour, activity, country or individual on climate change. It comes from the idea of a footprint being a mark that each individual can leave behind. While measuring the degree to which something can affect climate change is very complex, there are calculators which can process these complicated algorithms and give you an idea of your own personal carbon **output**.



Carbon footprints

It is not just the responsibility of individuals to ensure greenhouse emissions are kept at sustainable levels. Corporations must shoulder the burden too. The emissions that enter the atmosphere directly from manufacturing, transport and the production of electricity contribute **disproportionately** to the process of global warming. In fact, in the last 30 years, just 100 companies have contributed to more than 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is no surprise that the companies that top the list are in the oil and gas industry. Fossil fuel extractors have attempted, on the surface at least, to clean up their image and diversify into green sustainable projects. Many lobby against the **imposition** of a carbon price, as this would hurt their **bottom line**.





New words

output

The factory's **output** has doubled in the last year to meet increased demand.

disproportionate

The amount of income I receive is **disproportionate** to the hours put in. A **proportion** is part of one overall amount or total number.

imposition

The manager announced the **imposition** of new uniform guidelines to the crew.

bottom line

A rise in taxes will usually affect a company's **bottom line**.



Choose the appropriate answer

1. Corporations must shoulder some of the _____ for keeping emissions under control.

a. burden

b. bundle

c. burnish

d. burned

2. A carbon footprint _____ the impact something has on climate change.

a. maintains

b. minds

c. measures

d. manages

3. In the last 30 years, _____ companies have contributed to more than 70% of greenhouse gas emissions.

a. 150

b. 100

c. 10

d. 10%

4. Many lobbyists try their best to halt the _____ of a price on carbon.

a. imperious

b. imposition

c. imposter

d. improbable



Choose the appropriate answer

1. _____ fuel extraction is one of the most direct contributors of CO₂ to the atmosphere.

a. fossick

b. fossil

c. febrile

d. dirty

2. Multinational companies in the oil and gas _____ are among the biggest polluters in the world.

a. independent

b. industrial

c. industry

d. industrious

3. Many companies making a business of extracting oil and gas have attempted to clean up their environmental _____.

a. interests.

b. history

c. immense

d. image

4. A price on carbon would hurt the bottom _____ of many companies.

a. margin

b. line

c. level

d. lime



Explain

Talk to your teacher about reasons why some businesses would be opposed to a tax on carbon. What are some examples of lobbying?

//

Many lobby against the imposition of a carbon price, as this would hurt their bottom line.

//



Impacts of climate change

Scientists predict a range of damaging effects as a result of climate change.

Talk to the teacher about the statements below.

The sea level will rise by up to 5 feet.

Natural disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms will become stronger and more intense.

Droughts and heat waves will become more of a problem in countries positioned closer to the equator.
Many regions will become uninhabitable.



Imagine...

After experimenting with your friend's time machine you have found yourself 65 years in the future! Answer the questions below and use the prompts to help you.

- What do you notice about people's behaviour?
- What are people's opinions on climate change?
- Do people practise sustainability differently?



■ People are no longer driving cars...

■ The impact of climate change is evident in...





Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on
training your listening comprehension



Listening activity

As you listen to the text, make notes on the following topics. What is the significance of each topic below? Why is each thing mentioned in the listening text and what relevance does it have to the topic? Then turn to the next slide and answer the true or false questions.

taxes

business interests

Australia



True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Responsible individuals should measure and limit their carbon footprint.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Forward thinking governments have repealed legislation on carbon tax.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Politicians unanimously support the introduction of a price on carbon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The Australian government successfully introduced a carbon tax.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The Australian carbon tax was abolished in 2013, one year after it was introduced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Many scientists believe there is plenty of time to take action against carbon emissions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

carbon tax

A **carbon tax** is a price that is put on carbon to encourage companies to curb their greenhouse gas emissions and operate in a more environmentally friendly manner.



The **carbon tax** encouraged the mining companies to find cleaner ways of operating.



New words

craven

Craven is an adjective which means very cowardly.

legislation

A law or collection of laws written and put into motion.

stewardship

The controlling, organising or management of something.

to repeal

When a law is **repealed**, its legal force is removed and it becomes ineffective.



Counteracting our footprint

How might technology help to offset the carbon footprint of our daily lives?

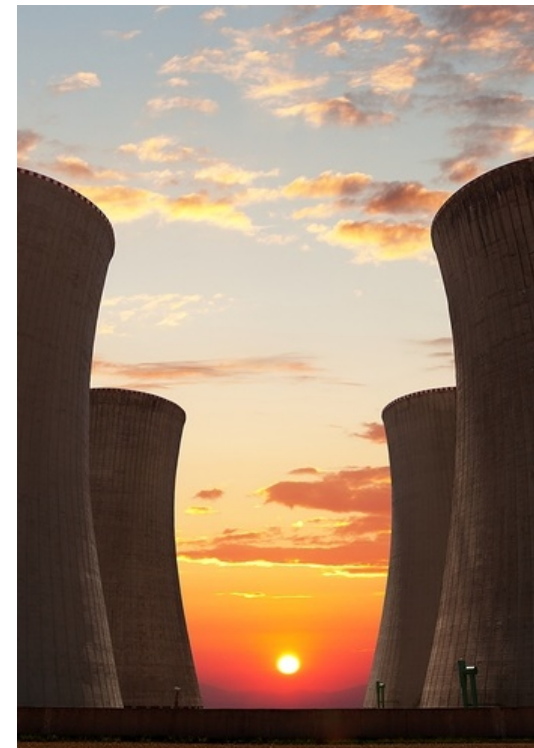




Debate

Many countries have introduced a price on carbon, which forces the biggest culprits of carbon emission to pay more. Where do you stand? Pick one of the positions below and debate with the teacher.

- The introduction of a carbon tax is a positive step in tackling man-made climate change.
- A carbon tax would make energy prices more expensive for everyone – not worth it!
- There are better ways to address climate change than a tax.





Other strategies

Describe other strategies to limit the output of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Use the pictures to help with your ideas.

Do you have any other ideas?



Renewable energy sources



Plant more trees



Electric cars



Penalties



Tell the teacher

What is your opinion about the best way to address global warming?

What needs to happen to make progress on this issue and stop the rising of the temperature?



Dinner party

You're having a dinner party with your friends. The conversation has become quite heated – everyone has an opinion! What will you say to each of your friends? Remember to be tactful – you don't want to ruin the dinner party for everyone.

Anyone who doesn't make an active effort to lower their CO2 output is part of the problem!



Joanna



Mark

Everyone is responsible for their own carbon footprint – what's so hard about switching off a light switch, or cycling instead of driving?

Hitting people with higher energy prices to slow global warming by a small amount? I don't think so.



Eric



Ingrid

There is no point measuring your carbon footprint and having a green lifestyle if no one else is doing it!



Talk to the teacher

Present a speech to your teacher about ways they can minimise their carbon output in their day to day life.

Prepare some notes using the points below.

Consider how you will structure your speech. Feel free to use your own ideas.

Mode of transport?

Household?

Mindfulness?



Tell a story

- Tell a story about one of the pictures below using as much vocabulary as you can remember from this lesson.
- One point for each item of vocabulary you can remember!





Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Transcription

For individuals concerned about the impact of human activity on the planet, measuring and trying to limit their carbon output is a way of taking action. Placing limits on an individual or corporation's carbon footprint looks to be one of the more realistic options of tackling man-made climate change in the future. Forward thinking governments around the world have introduced **legislation** placing taxes on carbon emissions. Many developed countries including Australia and the United States face stiff opposition from business interests and fossil fuel industries. **Craven** politicians more inclined to self-interest than environmental **stewardship** have caved to pressures from these groups. In Australia a carbon tax introduced in 2012 was **repealed** two years later by a conservative, business friendly government. Australia became the first nation to abolish an established carbon tax.

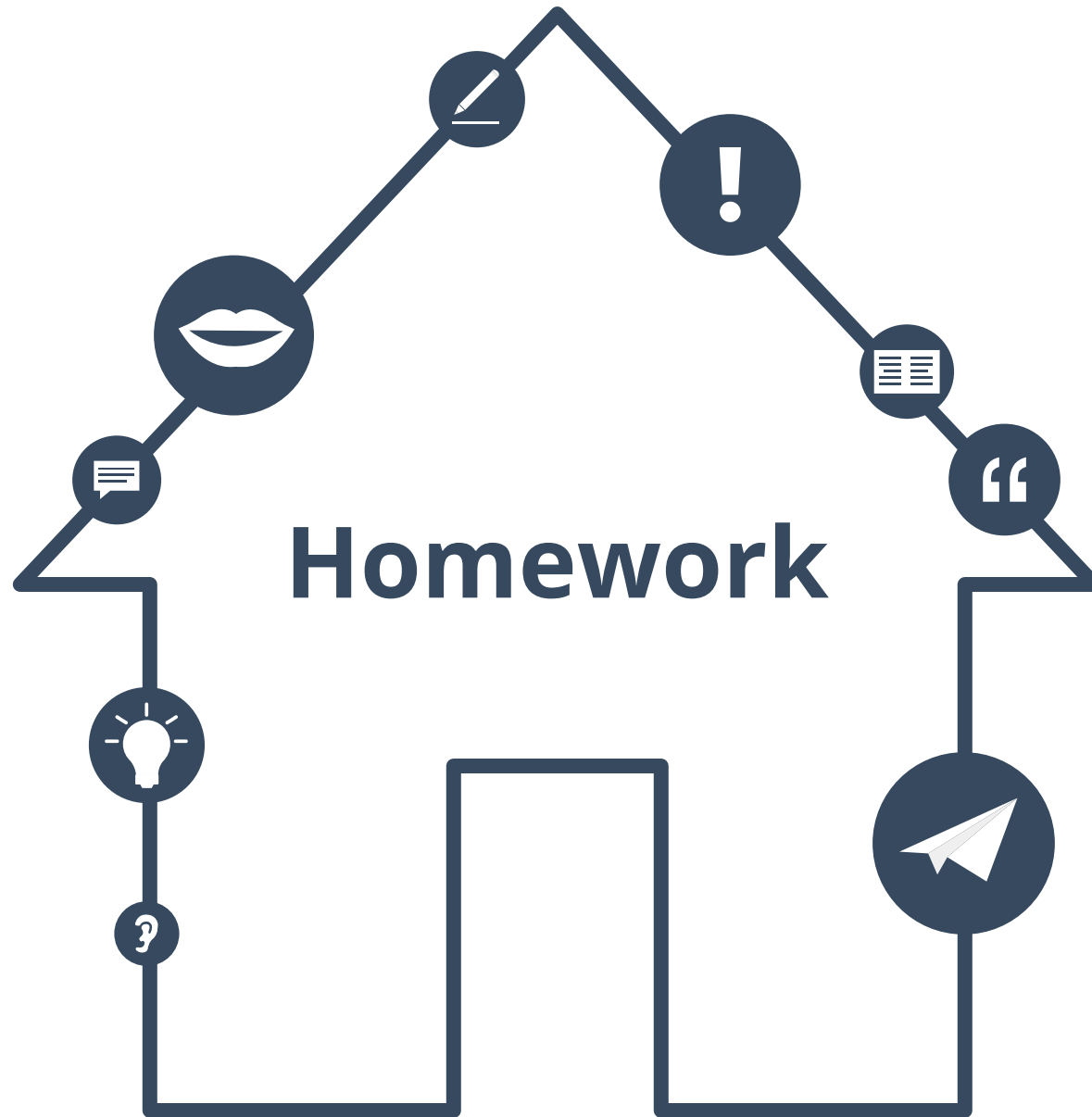
It seems inevitable that our society will have to put a price on carbon. The question is whether a carbon price will emerge too late in the game to alter the progress of climate change. Many scientists believe it is too late already, and any efforts made now will simply delay the inevitable. Personal responsibility is an empowering thing, and as habits and culture changes from generation to generation, small victories might appear. But will it be enough?



Answer key

Activity P. 10 1A, 2C, 3B, 4B
Activity P. 11 1B, 2C, 3D, 4B

True or false p. 17: 1T, 2F, 3F, 4T, 5F, 6F





Categorise

Write two lists, assessing your lifestyle and behaviour in regards to your carbon footprint. Be mindful about ways you can reduce your carbon footprint from the material in today's lesson.

Things I'm doing well!

Things I could improve



Summarise

Use vocabulary from the lesson to write a summary of what you learned about carbon footprints in today's lesson.

empowering

imposition

legislation

to repeal

stewardship

inevitable





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