



HOME SURVEY

In class you learned a lot about climate change and how to protect the atmosphere. Now it's time to go home and share what you learned with your family, so you can get started finding family solutions!

Instructions:

Grab a family member to join you in surveying your home to learn more about your family's carbon footprint. Record your findings here.

1 Count the number of light bulbs in your house.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dining area | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/living area | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Record the total number here: _____
How many are regular/old fashioned bulbs? _____
How many are compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)? _____
Could any of the regular ones be changed to CFLs? _____

2 Count the number of electrical items you have plugged in.

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television/DVD | <input type="checkbox"/> Chargers (e.g. cell phones, toothbrushes, batteries) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music (Stereo, iPod, etc.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Record the total number of items here: _____
Could any of these be unplugged when not in use? _____
If so, which ones? _____

3 Locate your household thermostat. Does it have a setting that can be programmed? _____

If so, what is the daytime temperature setting? _____
The nighttime temperature setting? _____
If not, what temperature is it usually kept at during the day? _____ at night? _____
Is anyone home during the day? _____
Could it be turned down? _____

4 How many car trips, on average, does your family take per week?

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To work | <input type="checkbox"/> Errands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To school | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Record the total number here: _____
Can any of these car trips be reduced? _____
If so, how? (Hint: bus, carpool, bike, etc.) _____

Congratulations on looking at your family's carbon footprint! Now flip the page over for ideas on how to make improvements.



Small Actions Can Make a Big Difference!

1 LIGHTS

- ★ **FACT:** Lighting accounts for almost a quarter of the home electricity bill. Turn lights off when not in use to save on energy and money.
- ★ **ACTION:** Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. They use one-quarter as much energy as regular incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer. If every U.S. household switched five old fashioned bulbs for five compact fluorescent bulbs we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to nearly 10 million cars driving per year.

2 ELECTRICAL ITEMS

- ★ **FACT:** Plugging items that are near each other, such as a computer, printer, monitor, and modem, into a power strip that can be turned off when not needed saves energy.
- ★ **ACTION:** Unplug TVs, DVD players, game consuls, and other electronics when not in use. Unplugging these items can reduce your carbon footprint by 500 pounds of CO2 per year!

3 HOME HEAT

- ★ **FACT:** Did you know that almost half of the average home's energy consumption is used for heating rooms?
- ★ **ACTION:** Turn the thermostat down at night and during the day if no one is home. If everyone turned down their heat by just three degrees for a day, we'd save the energy equivalent of 250,000 barrels of oil every day. For every degree you lower your heat, you'll save as much as 2-3% of heating costs as well.

4 TRANSPORTATION

- ★ **FACT:** Believe it or not transportation accounts for nearly half of the greenhouse gas emissions in Seattle.
- ★ **ACTION:** Get out of your car and drive less by taking the bus to school or work, carpooling, or riding a bike when possible. Each mile of driving you eliminate saves save one pound of carbon dioxide.

Now that you've completed your home survey findings, list **THREE IMPROVEMENTS** that your family can make to shrink your carbon footprint: (Hint: Look above for ideas!)

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Signature of student: _____

Signature of participating family member: _____

Bonus: Have ALL members of household review the improvements section and sign here: _____
