



Home Assignment

In class you learned about climate change and the atmosphere. Now you can go home and share what you learned with your family.

Instructions:

Ask 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? _____
 How many? _____

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? _____
 while people are away? _____
 Can the temperature be lowered when no one is home?
 yes _____ no _____
 How many total hours per day at the lower temperature?
 hours _____

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? _____

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Number of trips to/from work | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of trips for errands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Number of trips to/from school | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of trips to/from home |

Record the total number here: _____
 Can any of these car trips be reduced? _____
 How many per week? _____
 If so, how? (Hint: bus, carpool, bike, walk) _____

Congratulations on looking at your family's carbon footprint! Now turn the page over for other ideas on how to shrink your carbon footprint.



Small Actions Can Make a Big Difference!

1 LIGHTS

- ★ **FACT:** Lighting accounts for up to 25% of a home's electricity bill. Turn lights off when not in use to save 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 driving nearly 10 million cars.

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! That's like saving more than 25 gallons of gasoline 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 to 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:** Cars, trucks, planes and boats create nearly half of the greenhouse gas emissions in Seattle.
- ★ **ACTION:** Drive less by taking the bus to school or work, carpooling, riding a bike or walking when possible. If your family drove 20 miles less per week, you could reduce your carbon footprint by 1,000 lbs of CO₂ per year! It takes an acre of pine forest one year to absorb 1,000 pounds of CO₂.

Now that you've completed your home survey findings, list **THREE THINGS** your family can do 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: _____
