

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES

SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT, APRIL 28, 2023

CALCULATE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

This estimates the greenhouse gases (GHGs) associated with your lifestyle. Then you can consider how to reduce them.

Note: There are many carbon calculators and they are based on different factors, so they produce slightly different results. Many online sites ask you to make a contribution. One example is:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

U.S. EPA has one at: <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Your carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted as a result of your actions. Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are causing or contributing to climate change. Here are some simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

PLANT A GARDEN. Grow the vegetables you buy most often. This eliminates the energy used to transport them. If you have a vegetable garden, also plant flowers. Flowers attract pollinators which keep bees and other insect species alive. If you are unable to plant, choose local foods in season with fewer transportation costs.

EAT LESS MEAT. Livestock production - primarily cows – produce approximately 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The majority comes from methane which cows emit in digesting a high fiber diet. The power used to ship and process them creates a sizeable carbon footprint.

APPLIANCE ADJUSTMENT. Modern appliances in stand-by mode draw small amounts of power continually. Unplug appliances and turn off lights when not in use.

CRUISE CONTROL. A steady speed is more fuel efficient than regularly changing speed. Use cruise control for long drives on highways. Brake gently to slow down and accelerate gently to speed up. This reduces the amount of CO₂ your car emits. Keep tires properly inflated so less energy is needed to achieve and maintain speed while driving.

ENERGIZE YOUR FEET. Bicycling and walking reduce greenhouse gas emissions, traffic congestion and our demand for oil. Try to commit to one less car trip a week when possible. Less motorized transportation also means less impact on wetlands and other natural habitats.

WHAT GRADE DO YOU RECEIVE? PASS OR FAIL?

These sites will tell you what grade your toilet paper and tissues receive based on their environmental impact from production through disposal. If your grade is low....try a brand with a better grade.

https://news.yahoo.com/scorecard-grades-toilet-paper-brands-in-terms-of-climate-change-impact-215839561.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma

<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/issue-with-tissue-2022-scorecard.pdf>

HELP THE CLIMATE THROUGH SMART FINANCIAL PROVIDER CHOICES

Check out the investment values of your bank, credit card providers, home and auto insurance companies, retirement and investment accounts

- Rivers and Mountains Greenfaith has a website that allows users to check their financial institutions involvement in fossil fuels.

<https://www.rivers-mountains-greenfaith.org/individual-divestment-fossil-fuel> Enter the site through the tab "Go to Workshop"

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN REPLACING APPLIANCES

INDUCTION RANGES will require extra electric circuit. Learn more at:

--<https://www.consumerreports.org/appliances/ranges/pros-and-cons-of-induction-cooktops-and-ranges-a5854942923/>

--cooktop reviews: <https://www.insider.com/guides/kitchen/best-induction-cooktop>

HEAT PUMP CLOTHES DRYERS can be found on the Energy Star site at:

https://www.energystar.gov/products/heat_pump_dryer

Heat Pump dishwashers: available in Europe, not in U.S. Get Energy Star rated appliances to conserve energy.

HOME HEATING AND COOLING

HEAT PUMP HVAC Good article explaining how to search for your best

options: <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/guides/heat-pump-buying-guide/>

WATER HEATER ENERGY STAR: https://www.energystar.gov/products/heat_pump_water_heaters

INSULATION AND SEALING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

https://www.energystar.gov/campaign/seal_insulate

SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR FOR YOUR ELECTRICITY

Sourced from solar farms, you can earn a 10% discount on electricity. Does not apply to distribution and other charges.

SWITCH TO AN ELECTRIC OR HYBRID VEHICLE

GUIDE TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING: <https://www.evgo.com/ev-drivers/charging-basics/>

TOM'S GUIDE TO BEST ELECTRIC CARS you can buy now:

<https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-electric-cars-today>

CARS.COM – ELECTRIC CAR BUYING GUIDE What to Know Before Buying An Electric Car:

<https://www.cars.com/articles/what-to-know-before-purchasing-an-electric-vehicle-a-buying-guide-448149/>

EDMUNDS BEST ELECTRIC CARS 2023-24 <https://www.edmunds.com/electric-car/>

TIPS AND GUIDANCE ABOUT ELECTRIC CARS:

- You should not drive the car to zero energy, so discount the stated driving range 10 to 20% to allow a margin of safety for recharging.
- Driving range is lower than rated in winter due to extra energy needed for heating and lower battery efficiency.
- Chargers are not universal. Websites display locations of charging stations.
- Home charging systems are said to cost between \$1000 and \$2500 to install.