

CO²&U

Greenhouse gas calculator for youth and young adults
New Community Project

Every one of us in the US is responsible for about **20 tons of CO₂** every year—and our nation puts out around 20 percent of the world's total emissions. CO₂ is the main gas behind climate change, these increases are bringing problems like unnatural disasters (tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, droughts made worse by climate change), sea level rise, less crop production, hunger and famine, and the loss of plant and animal species. While nobody wants a world like this, we may not know what we can do. According to the Kyoto Treaty, the US should be aiming for around 10 tons per person—**how can we get there?**

The **first step** is awareness of our CO₂-creating habits. Then we can make more earth-friendly choices about what we eat, how we get around, where we live, the things we buy. This little exercise will help us gain awareness both of our CO₂ consumption patterns as well as what we can do better. So let's get started!

Add 'em up! (1 point=1 ton CO₂)

Your main transportation

Hybrid car	5
Compact	8
Mid-size/sedan	9
Large truck/SUV	11
Public transit/bus	3
Walking	2
Bicycle	1

Bonus (include all that apply):

Bike sometimes instead of car	-2
Very likely to walk places	-1

Total: _____

What you eat

Typical US diet (meat 2-3 times per day)	6
Meat once a day or less	4
Meat rarely	1.5
Vegetarian	1

Bonus:

Rarely eat fast food	-.5
Don't buy bottled drinks/water	-.5
Have a garden	-.5

Total: _____

Home energy use

Single-family home	9
Apartment complex	5

Bonus:

Use TV/computer less than 1 hr. / day	-.5
Always turn off lights	-.5
In shower 5 minutes or less	-.5

Total: _____

Around the house—clothes, trash, etc.

Av. CO₂ created to buy stuff for home 1.5

Bonus:

Recycling fanatic	-.5
Own under 8 pair shoes (15 is average)	-.3
Help wash dishes to avoid disposables	-.1

Total: _____

Special Bonus section:

You can name 2 ways climate change will negatively affect plants or animals	-1
You helped your school/church/ family get more environmentally active	-3
You are going to help plant trees in the rainforest to offset some of your CO ₂ (\$2 = 2 trees = 1 hour of video gaming/day; \$20 = 20 trees = long showers)	-5

Grand Total: _____

[New Community Project](#)

718 Wilder Street

Elgin, IL 60123

ncp@newcommunityproject.org • 888-800-2985