



Environment



Hygiene



Health



Wild Life



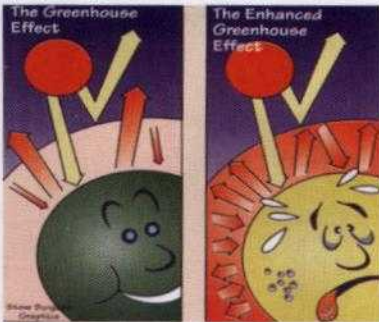
Quiz



Green House Gases, effects and our Carbon foot print towards its offset

What are the Green House Gases?

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases in the atmosphere that trap energy from the sun. Naturally occurring GHGs include water vapour, ozone (O₃), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorocarbons.



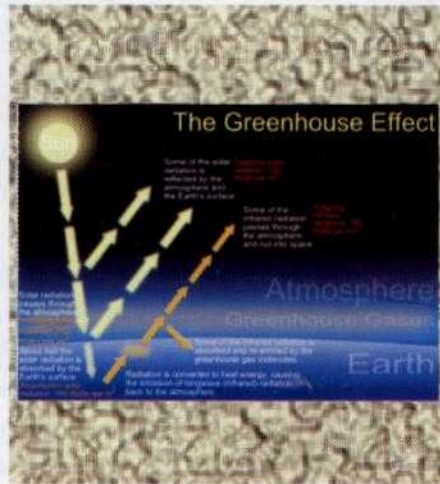
What is their importance in our earth's atmosphere?

Without them, the Earth's average temperature would be about 33°C lower than it is, making the climate too cold to support life.

How it works?

The "greenhouse effect" is the

heating of the Earth due to the presence of greenhouse gases. It is named this way because of a similar effect produced by the glass panes of a greenhouse. Solar radiation from the sun passes through Earth's atmosphere, and then is absorbed by the surface of the Earth, causing it to warm. Part of the absorbed energy is then reradiated back to the atmosphere. Little of this long wave radiation escapes back into space; the radiation cannot pass through the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

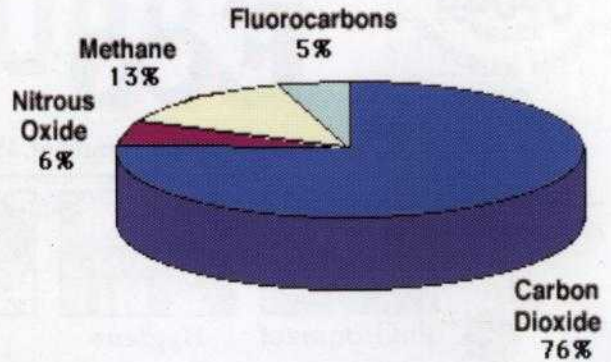


What worries us about these GHGs?

While these naturally occurring gases are what make life possible, a serious concern today is the enhanced effect on the climate system of increased levels of some of these gases in the atmosphere, due mainly to human activities (anthropogenic). Increases in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations are very likely to have caused most of the increases in *global average temperatures* since the mid-20th century which has resulted in the change of our earth's climate, ice deviation, increase in sea level, drought, storms, floods, tsunamis, extinction of species, change in natural habitat etc.... This is the reason why we need to reduce the green house gases emissions especially the anthropogenic emissions.

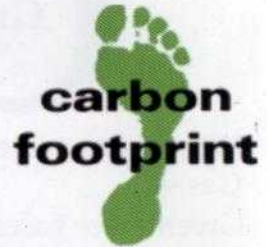
The concerned Greenhouse Gases in the atmosphere include:

- CO₂ - recent increase is due to fossil-fuel combustion and deforestation
- CH₄ - about 1/2 of current emissions are anthropogenic (land fills, natural gas, agriculture)
- N₂O- natural and anthropogenic sources
- CFCs and Ozone the – the main source are the refrigerant systems
- Water vapor-has not significant anthropogenic source and is actually a non gas contributor to the Earth's greenhouse effect,



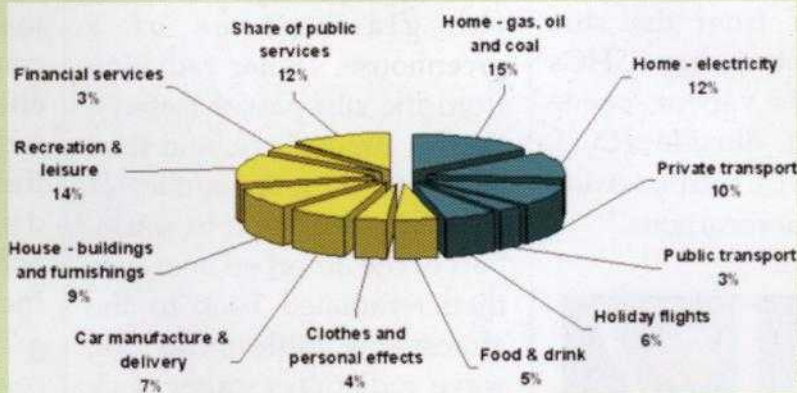
What is a Carbon Footprint?

A **carbon footprint** is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation etc.



The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

The pie chart above shows the main elements which make up the total of a typical person's carbon footprint



How can we calculate our carbon footprint?

To quickly calculate our carbon footprints, or the amount of greenhouse gases in units of carbon dioxide, we are producing by using the following formula:

- A.) Multiply your monthly electricity bill by 105
- B.) Multiply your monthly gas bill by 105
- C.) Multiply your monthly oil bill by 113 (if you don't use either B or C, enter 0.)
- D.) Multiply total yearly mileage by .79
- E.) Multiply the number of flights--4 hours or less-- by 1,100
- F.) Multiply the number of flights--4 hours or more-- by 4,400

G.) Do you recycle newspaper? If no, add 184. If yes, add 0.

H.) Do you recycle aluminum and tin? If no, add 166. If yes, add 0.

A+B+C+D+E+F+G+H = your carbon footprint. A number below 6,000 (reflected in pounds per year) is excellent. Over 22,000? Not so great. Good is anywhere from 6,000 to 15,999, while 16,000 to 22,000 is average.

If your number is higher than you would like, there's good news--there are hundreds of ways you can shrink your carbon footprint, and many of them aren't as sacrificial as you might expect.

Even if we cut that by a ton--which isn't difficult -- it would make a huge difference."

How can we reduce our carbon foot Print?

Today it is more important than ever before to minimize our footprint. Here's a list of simple things you can do immediately. These will start to reduce your contribution to global warming. The items in this list will cost you no money at all and will in fact save you money.

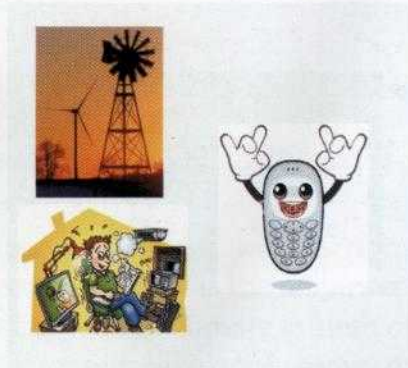
If there is green energy supplier who will supply electricity from renewable sources (e.g. wind and hydroelectric power) sign up to them - this will reduce your carbon footprint contribution from electricity to zero. **Renewable energy is clean, safe, and inexhaustible.**

Turn it off when not in use (lights, television, DVD player, Hi Fi, computer Oven, Washing Machine Dishwasher.) Fill your dish washer and washing machine with a full load - this will save you water, electricity, and washing powder

Unplug your mobile phone as soon as it has finished charging

Defrost your fridge/freezer regularly.

Do your weekly shopping in a single trip



- Fit energy saving light bulbs.
- Install thermostatic valves on your radiators
- Recycle your grey water
- Replace your old fridge / freezer (if it is over 15 years old), with a new one with energy efficiency rating of "A"
- Replace your old boiler with a new energy efficient condensing boiler
- Use the bus or a train rather than your car
- See if your employer will allow you to work from home one day a week



- * Buy local fruit and vegetables, or even try growing your own
- * Don't buy fresh fruit and vegetables which are out of season, they may have been flown in
- * Reduce your consumption of meat
- * Don't buy bottled water if your tap water is safe to drink
- * Try to buy products made closer to home buy organic produce
- * Don't buy over packaged products



QUIZ Time

What are the Green House Gases?

- Gases that are made by plants growing in green house
- Gases that trap heat above the earth
- Gases that are used to heat green houses

Which of the following is not a Green House Gas?

- Oxygen
- Methane
- Carbon dioxide

Which of the following is not a source of carbon footprint?

- Landfills
- Cattle
- Clouds

Carbon footprint is calculated in terms of ?

- CH₄
- N₂O
- Co₂

Which of the following three things are

- biodegradable/compostable
- Aluminum
- Plastic
- Apple

Which is the first step in recycling waste?

- Segregate the waste at neighborhood
- Segregate the waste at home
- Segregate the waste at recycling plant

Answer the quiz and mail it to us with all your identity details by 30th July 2009 at bfi52@yahoo.co.in or you could even mail it on the following address and the lucky winner will receive exciting prizes.

Burhani Foundation (India)

Amatullah Manzil, 2nd floor, Bazargate Street, Fort, Mumbai -400 001.

Tel; 22678480 Fax 22678480

Websites; www.burhani.org/www.burhani.com

Email; mail@burhani.org/bfi52@yahoo.co.in

Designed by: M. Kumail Najmi 9224108935