

LESSON: CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR



INTRODUCTION

Americans produce more carbon output than the majority of individuals across the globe. The average carbon output for someone in Louisiana is 78,800 lbs.¹, and the global average is 8,358 lbs.

This lesson will introduce students to the concept of an individual's contribution to carbon pollution in our environment, how everyday decisions impact carbon output, and potential solutions to reduce individual output. Students will use an online carbon footprint calculator to explore the impacts of their daily habits on their individual carbon output. Carbon footprint calculators can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

After receiving their results, students will be able to compare their total to their peers, the average Louisiana resident, and individuals across the globe. Following their comparison, they can retake the assessment to determine the modifications they can make to their daily habits to reduce their individual output.

LESSON GUIDANCE

Discuss the far-ranging effects of carbon pollution – carbon in our atmosphere traps heat and creates air pollution, which causes extreme weather, food supply disruptions, wildfires, and respiratory diseases. Following the topic introduction, students should use the Carbon Footprint Calculator. If an answer is not known, they can use the pre-set “Average” answer. Once they have their output number, students can compare results with classmates and against global averages. Following the calculation, discuss different ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

CONCLUSION

Educating the public on the effects of their habits will create an awareness of the impact of their daily actions. Students can take what they learned from this lesson and start a discussion in their home and community on how individuals can reduce their carbon output.

¹U.S. Energy Information Administration

		OUTPUT NUMBER:	
WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT			

