

Carbon Footprint

What is it?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), carbon footprint is a measure of the impact your activities have on the amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) produced *through the burning of fossil fuels*. It is expressed as a weight of CO₂ emissions produced in tons.

Three types:

- Fuels and heating sources producing greenhouse gas emissions
- Mobile combustion – greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles
- Fugitive emissions – leaks from sources such as refrigeration and air conditioning units

What are Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)?

GHG includes carbon dioxide from fuel emissions and methane gas from food production. The United States accounts for only about 5% of global population yet is responsible for 30% of global energy use and 28% of carbon emissions. China is the biggest emitter of CO₂ in the world, and India has the fastest-growing carbon footprint.

If the trend continues, people could pump enough CO₂ into the atmosphere to warm the Earth to 1.5 degrees C. above pre-industrial temperatures in just nine years. As GHG increases blanket the Earth, this traps the sun's heat. This could result in sustained and radical weather events, rising sea levels changing our geography and crop planting.

What can I do?

Discover your personal Carbon Footprint by calculating with:

<https://coolclimate.org/calculator>

or, in your browser, enter:

[Climate Hero Carbon Calculator](#)

to be directed to a different calculation...

Reduce your Carbon Footprint by:

- Driving fewer miles, combining stops in one 'drive'
- Use heating controls
- Upgrade your heating and air conditioning system
- Improve home insulation
- Use energy-efficient appliances
- Install energy-efficient lighting
- Reduce meat consumption
- Reduce new purchases, recycle and reuse
- Support leaders who support the new systems that we need

The average footprint for a person in the United States is about 12- to 16-tons yearly, one of the highest rates in the world, according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI).

Climate changes are felt by people and not nations. The Notre Dame Institute judges Switzerland to be the least vulnerable country and Niger to be the most vulnerable to climate change.

The United States leads in Greenhouse Gas Reductions (GHG), but some countries are falling behind.

St. Stephen's Creation Care Activities

Following are projects and activities recently completed at St. Stephen's:

- Replaced most of exterior and interior lighting with LED bulbs
- Updated cooling and heating insulation Chiller piping, reducing energy loss and condensation issues
- Continue to use online software to remotely control heating and cooling temperature
- Energy rebates from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy

- Continued recycling of church waste trash

Anticipated projects:

- Tuckpointing repair planned for properties, including stained glass windows and entrance doors
- Completion of LED lighting conversion