

CO₂&U

Greenhouse gas calculator for youth and young adults
New Community Project

Every one of us in the US is responsible for about **17 tons of CO₂** every year—and our nation creates around 20 percent of the world's total emissions. (We are also responsible for about 10 percent of China's CO₂ emissions, thanks to all the stuff we import from there.) Since CO₂ is the main gas behind climate change, this is bringing problems like unnatural disasters (tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, droughts made worse by climate change), sea level rise, less crop production, hunger and famine, threats to millions of species, and even potential military conflict. Nobody wants a world like this—what we can do? According to the Kyoto Treaty, the US should be aiming for around 10 tons per person—we're at around 17 tons now—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 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 or Biking	1

Total: _____

What you eat

Typical US diet (eat 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
On the computer 2+ hours/day	2
10+ minutes per shower	1

Bonus:

Always turn off computer/lights	-.5
In shower 5 minutes or less	-.5

Total: _____

Around the house—clothes, trash, etc.

Typical consumer (loads of shoes & clothes, new phone every 2 years, etc)	2
Don't want and don't have lots of stuff	1

Bonus:

Recycling fanatic	-.5
Own under 8 pair shoes (15 is average)	-.3
Help wash dishes/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	-3
(see NCP's <i>If a Tree Falls...</i> program to plant trees!)	

Grand Total: _____

Over or Under 17 tons of CO₂ _____

New Community Project
9036 W. Quail Track Drive, Peoria, AZ 85383
ncp@newcommunityproject.org
1-844-804-2985