

You and CO₂

*Moving from emitters to remitters of greenhouse gases
New Community Project*

At **17 tons of CO₂** per person every year—or about 5.2 billion tons altogether—we in the United States are contributing around 20 percent of all the CO₂ being added to the atmosphere by humanity. (We are also responsible for about 10 percent of China's CO₂, due to all the products they manufacture for us.) The Kyoto Protocol (which the US hasn't signed) asked all nations to reduce their CO₂ by a percentage below 1990 levels—for the US, this came out to 7% below our 1990 level of 5 billion tons (although greater reductions will eventually be needed). This would mean each of us should be aiming for around 10 tons per person. Yet even if we feel concerned about the present and future problems climate change may cause our earth—unnatural disasters, sea level rise, loss of crop production, hunger and famine, social upheaval, loss of millions of species, and even military conflict—it's hard to know what we can do.

The **first step** is to become more aware of our current CO₂-creating habits. Then we're equipped to make more earth-friendly choices about driving, eating, housing, consuming—and about our society's priorities. This 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)

What's your primary transportation?

Hybrid	5
Compact	8
Mid-size/sedan	9
Large truck/SUV	11
Public transit	3
Walking or biking	1

Bonus (include all that apply):

Walk when trip is under 1 mile	-1
Drive less than 6000 miles/yr	-2
Bike sometimes instead of car	-2
Carpool	-3

Total: _____

Dietary Choices

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

Bonus:

20+% of food from garden or local farmer	-5
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Total: _____

Household (energy consumption)

Single-family home	9
Apartment complex	5

Bonus:

Hang up clothes to dry	-.5
Mostly CFL bulbs	-.5
2 degree up/down AC/heater	-.5
Low-flow shower heads	-.5
Efficient wood stove/replant trees	-.5

Total: _____

Household (material consumption/waste)

Typical materials use	1.5
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Bonus:

Recycling fanatic	-.5
Compost	-.5

Total: _____

Special Bonus section:

You regularly share your concerns over climate change with others	-1
You helped a group/company/school/church to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	-2
You helped spur a community-wide effort for bike lanes , waste reduction, etc.	-3
You offset five tons of your emissions by preserving an acre of rainforest	-5

Grand Total: _____

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