

Brighter Schools: Sustainability Education Activities

Name of Activity: Calculate the School's Carbon Footprint

Minimum Group Size: 3 students, and 1 adult mentor depending on ages of students

Age Group: All ages

Objective: To get a current measurement of your school's carbon footprint.

Description: Students will compile information about the school and the school's use of fossil fuels to get a current carbon footprint estimate.

Time: 2-4 weeks total, as many of the answers will require research.

Materials Needed: A copy of the Brighter Schools Carbon Footprint Worksheet and instructions.

Steps:

- Print a copy of the Brighter Schools Carbon Footprint Worksheet. For a classroom exercise, print copies for groups to work on together.
- Discuss with the group to assess which sections you can answer on your own and which sections you will need assistance from staff at your school. You'll probably need to talk to administrators, custodial staff and grounds managers.
- Once completed, go back to the computer to input your answers. The worksheet will do the math for you and calculate your school's carbon footprint estimate.

Wrap-up: The school's current carbon footprint estimate can be a great jumping off point for actions that will reduce your school's carbon emissions. Use the worksheet to help identify the areas which contribute the most pollution. Then, brainstorm ideas on how to lower your footprint and help educate the school community on going green.

Feel free to contact us, schools@brighterplanet.com, with stories or suggestions!