

CO₂ Emissions Assessment Phase 2

1. Continue to track your identified carbon emission source (driving, electricity, trash production).

a. Set a carbon emission reduction goal and be specific.

Ex: I plan to reduce my carbon emissions from driving by ¼.

b. What is your plan for achieving this goal?

Ex: I plan to carpool to school twice a week and ride my bike to nearby locations.

2. Measure daily carbon emissions for one week (same category as pre-activity):

		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Total
Driving	Miles Driven								
Electricity	Loads of Laundry (by the household)								
Trash Production	Number of Single-Use Water Bottles Disposed of in Recycling Bin								
	Number of Single-Use Water Bottles Disposed of in Trash Can								

Conversions

Driving:

(look up the make and model of your car) Miles/ gallon

19.6 lbs CO₂/ gallon

Electricity (laundry):

1.3 lbs CO₂/ load washed on cold

1.5 lbs CO₂/ load washed on hot

3.8 lbs CO₂/ load dried in dryer

Trash Production (disposable water bottles):

0.13 lbs CO₂/ bottle recycled

0.18 lbs CO₂/ bottle of water thrown in trash



3. Calculate your total carbon emissions for the week.

Ex: I drove 100 miles in one week. My car's gas mileage is 30 miles/gallon.

$$100 \text{ miles} \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ gallon}}{30 \text{ miles}} \right) \times \left(\frac{19.6 \text{ lbs CO}_2}{1 \text{ gallon}} \right) = 65.3 \text{ lbs CO}_2$$

Ex: I washed 2 loads of laundry in hot water and 1 load on cold. I dried all 3 loads of laundry in the dryer.

$$(2 \text{ loads} \times 1.5 \text{ lbs CO}_2) + (1 \text{ load} \times 1.3 \text{ lbs CO}_2) + (3 \text{ loads} \times 3.8 \text{ lbs CO}_2) = 15.7 \text{ lbs CO}_2$$

Ex: I disposed of 10 bottles in the recycling bin and 6 bottles in the trash can

$$(10 \text{ bottles in recycling} \times 0.13 \text{ lbs CO}_2) + (6 \text{ bottles in trash} \times 0.18 \text{ lbs CO}_2) = 2.38 \text{ lbs CO}_2$$

4. Calculate your percent change in carbon emissions.

Ex: I emitted 91.5 lbs CO₂ in week 1 and 65.3 lbs CO₂ in week 2.

$$91.5 \text{ lbs CO}_2 - 65.3 \text{ lbs CO}_2 = 26.2 \text{ lbs CO}_2$$

$$\left(\frac{26.2}{91.5} \right) \times 100\% = 28.6\%$$

My carbon emissions decreased by 26.2 lbs CO₂, which is a 28.6% reduction.

5. Reflect on your experience.

- a. Was it difficult or easy for you to achieve your goal? Do you feel like this is a habit you will continue to incorporate into your life? Why or why not?



- b. What did you learn during this challenge? After this experience, what can you teach other people?
6. As a class, calculate your total carbon emission savings.
(Class total lbs CO₂ from week 1 – class total lbs CO₂ from week 2)

What does this mean?

100 pounds of CO₂ emission savings is equivalent to...

- Driving 109 miles
- Recycling 28 pounds of waste rather than sending it to the landfill
- Using 1.9 propane cylinders for home barbeques
- Burning 48.4 pounds of coal

200 pounds of CO₂ emission savings is equivalent to...

- Driving 217 miles
- Recycling 58 pounds of waste rather than sending it to the landfill
- Using 3.7 propane cylinders for home barbeques
- Burning 96.8 pounds of coal

300 pounds of CO₂ emission savings is equivalent to...

- Driving 326 miles
- Recycling 86 pounds of waste rather than sending it to the landfill
- Using 5.6 propane cylinders for home barbeques
- Burning 145 pounds of coal

Sources for conversions and facts: EPA.org, wastemanagement.com, energy.gov

