

What is a Carbon Footprint?

A footprint is a mark you leave on the ground when you walk on it. But people and animals can also leave a footprint in the air too. When we drive in our cars, when factories produce energy when making things we use, we all generate a footprint in the air. Even cows and other animals generate their own gassy footprint in the air every day!

All of these footprints in the air contain a substance called carbon. And, over time, lots of carbon can change our air and our weather. And not in a good way. That's why we call this type of mark a **CARBON FOOTPRINT**.

If we all leave behind a great big carbon footprint, the earth, the seas, and the air will all get much much hotter. We all suffer just like we see in the story **A Conservation Tale**.

The great news is that plants and trees can eat up the carbon in the air for us, but they need our help! We need to try and reduce our carbon footprint we leave behind and work with those trees to keep our planet safe and healthy.

There are ways we can do this right now. So, let's get started!

Here are 10 ways you can reduce your carbon footprint. What else can you do on your own, with your family, with your friends at school?

- Turn off the water while you are brushing your teeth.
- Remember to turn off lights when you leave the room.
- Turn off computers and other electronics when you aren't using them.
- Walk or bicycle instead of using the car when possible.
- Recycle plastic and cardboard in your home.
- Talk with your teacher about recycling in your classroom.
- Use reusable grocery bags.
- Switch to reusable water bottles
- Avoid buying products with lots of plastic packaging.
- Eat fruit and vegetables grown locally and in season.



We can all help take care of our environment by decreasing our carbon footprint. Small changes can make a big difference! What will you do?

Your Planet Needs You!