

OUR FOOTPRINT

In recent years you've probably heard quite a bit about global warming, climate change, and your carbon footprint. Take the quiz below by matching these and other related terms to their correct definition.

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| a. global warming | ___ 1. Compounds in the atmosphere that trap radiation from the sun and keep the planet at a warm temperature |
| b. climate change | ___ 2. The amount of greenhouse gas, and particularly carbon dioxide, emissions that a person or institution is responsible for |
| c. greenhouse gas | ___ 3. An increase in the planet's overall temperature as the result of an increase in greenhouse gases |
| d. carbon dioxide | ___ 4. Natural resources, often used in energy production, formed by the decomposition or buried organic materials over several million years |
| e. fossil fuel | ___ 5. Long-term changes in global weather patterns |
| f. carbon footprint | ___ 6. A greenhouse gas, used by plants in photosynthesis, large quantities of which are released when fossil fuels are burned |

Concerns about the effect of increased greenhouse gas emissions on our climate have caused many people to examine the size of their carbon footprint. But shrinking one's carbon footprint is an act of good stewardship, regardless of its effect on the planet's temperatures and weather patterns. By burning fewer fossil fuels, we conserve valuable nonrenewable resources, improve the quality of the air we breathe, and save money that could be put to better use in service of God and others. Our carbon footprint is one (but by no means the only) measure of how faithfully we care for God's creation.

Below are some ways that you can decrease the size of your carbon footprint. Place a checkmark next to those things you already are doing. Circle those things that you could start doing or could start doing better.

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| ___ Turn off the lights when I leave a room. | ___ Keep car tires properly inflated (or remind my parents to do so). |
| ___ Unplug phone chargers when phones are not charging. | ___ Walk, ride a bicycle, or take the bus to school. |
| ___ Use the "sleep" feature on my computer, instead of a screensaver. | ___ Replace "regular" incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). |
| ___ Clean the dust off of the coils on my family's refrigerator twice a year to improve its energy efficiency. | ___ Plug electronics into a power strip and turn off the power strip when the electronics are not in use. |
| ___ Encourage my parents to turn up the thermostat by a few degrees in the summer and to turn down the thermostat by a few degrees in the winter. | ___ Dry clothes on a clothesline or drying rack, instead of using the dryer (or convince my parents to do so). |