

CARBON FOOTPRINT PLEDGE



Purpose:

The purpose of this activity is to introduce the students to their carbon footprint and give them ideas on how to reduce their carbon footprint. At the end of the activity, the students will pledge to reduce their carbon footprints.

Instructions:

Begin the activity with a preliminary discussion on what a carbon footprint is and how having a smaller carbon footprint means that we are being mindful of our actions and decisions. Smaller footprints also mean that we are not consuming as many resources in comparison to others. Have students think of all the resources they consume on a daily basis (food, water, electricity, other energy), and how they consume them (heating their homes, brushing their teeth, preparing food).

If you need more background material, feel free to use some slides from the “Ecological Footprint and Introduction to WasteLess” slideshow which is available on the Green Schools website under the Resources tab: <http://greenschoolsns.ca/feeling-resourceful>.

If the activity is being run with *younger* students, they may need some additional help with explaining what a carbon footprint is. If this is the case, feel free to show the students these two videos:

Carbon Monster

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sglectkM0p4&list=PLgZQR1VW3fpMwYov70ITRF_XwHLpyyHoq&index=29

Green Ninja: Footprint Renovation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeYOZgbgG1Q&list=PLgZQR1VW3fpMwYov70ITRF_XwHLpyyHoq&index=28

Next, have a second discussion where you ask the students what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint. These can be small actions that are done everyday to larger more intensive actions. Make a list of what the students respond with, and if they are struggling to think of ways to reduce their carbon footprint offer some suggestions from the list below:

- Turn off lights when leaving room or when not needed.
- Turn off the TV when not in use.
- Unplug electronics that are not in use.
- Close windows & doors when heat is on.

- Pack food in re-usable containers (wasteless lunches).
- Use real spoons and forks instead of plastic ones.
- Use a re-usable water bottle.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Use your recyclables for crafts and art.
- Sort your waste properly (recycling, composting, etc.).
- Use less paper towels when drying hands.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- Walk, bike or take the bus to school.

Once the list is complete, leave it up for students to look at. Then give each student a footprint pledge sheet (attached). Tell the students to make a pledge of one activity that will help reduce their carbon footprint. These pledges can be actions from the list that you made during the second discussion.

If you have *older* students, you can have them pair off and trace each others' shoes on a blank piece of paper and make their own pledges.

Let the students decorate their pledges as they would like and then hang them up around the school or the classroom.

At the end of the activity remind students to try to make the best choices everyday to keep their carbon footprints small.

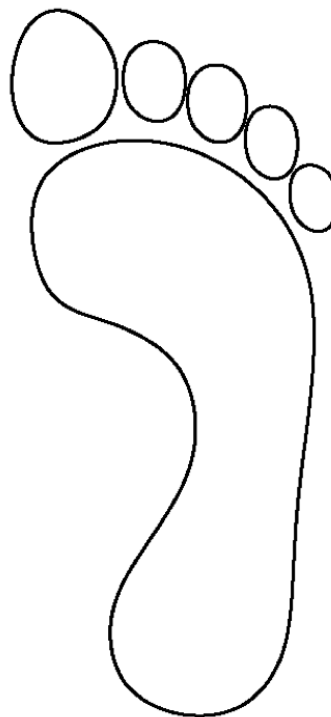
CARBON FOOTPRINT PLEDGE

I, _____
(Write your name here)

hereby pledge that I will...

(Write your activity here)

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CARBON FOOTPRINT PLEDGE

I, _____
(Write your name here)

hereby pledge that I will...

(Write your activity here)

GREEN SCHOOLS NOVA SCOTIA

