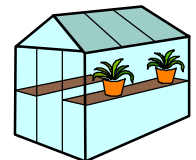


Information on Greenhouse Gasses and the Carbon Footprint Calculator from the Environmental Group

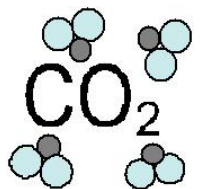
What is it?



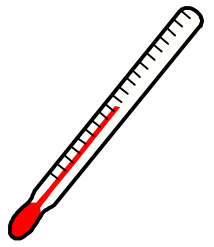
The atmosphere around the earth works like a greenhouse does. If you think of a greenhouse in your garden, it is nice and warm from the sun heating it up. This is how the Earth's atmosphere works. Scientists call this the **greenhouse effect**.



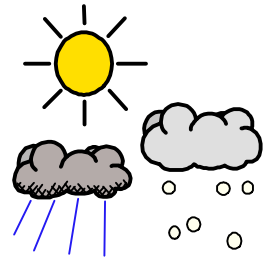
CO₂ which is the short name for a gas called carbon dioxide. Too much CO₂ is bad for the Earth's atmosphere so scientists call this the **greenhouse gasses effect**. There are other gases which cause problems but the way we live can make a big difference to the amount of CO₂ we put into the atmosphere.



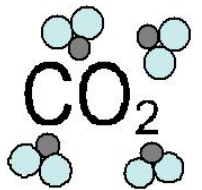
Greenhouse gases cause the Earth's temperature to rise. The temperature in the sea also rises.



This means there might be water shortages because it doesn't rain as much as it used to. There might also be floods and storms. There might be big changes in the weather all over the world which will affect us and all living things.



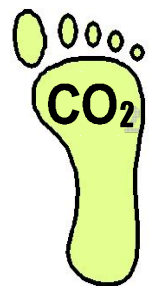
The CO₂ we give off comes from things done by us, households, offices and industry. The CO₂ goes into the air and spoils the atmosphere. This is called pollution.



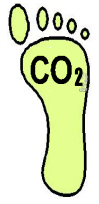
Cars do this when we drive them. Gases are given off from the burning of the petrol to make the cars go.



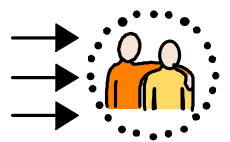
There is a way of measuring how much we pollute the atmosphere. This is called the **Carbon Footprint Calculator**.



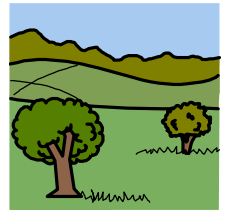
Why is it important to lower our carbon footprint?



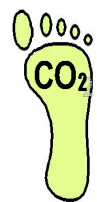
It is important to check our carbon footprints so that we can lower it to protect ourselves and the environment. Our environment is what surrounds us.



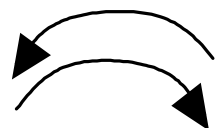
This will mean less pollution so that we can live in a nicer and healthier environment.



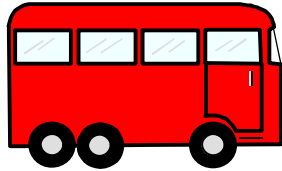
Ways to lower your carbon footprint



You can lower your carbon footprint by making changes to the way you do things in your life. You can make little or big changes. It will all help to reduce your carbon footprint.



- You could catch a bus instead of taking the car. You could even walk or cycle to where you want to go.



- You could recycle the rubbish you get in your homes.



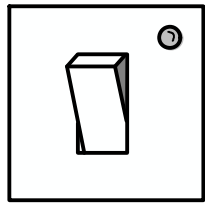
Most of your rubbish can be recycled. Recycle means to use again. That doesn't mean you have to use your rubbish again but it does mean someone else could use it.



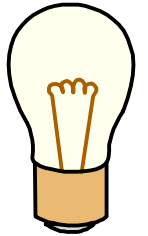
For example you can put tin cans, glass or paper in special bins. Other people will use these items to make new things.



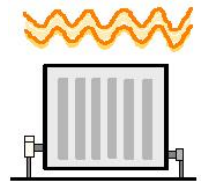
- You could use energy saving light bulbs and turn off the lights when you are not in the room.



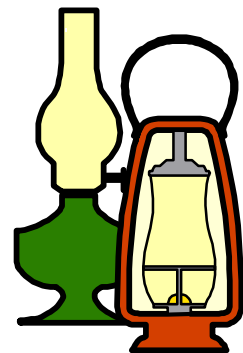
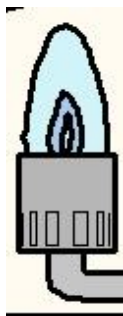
When a light or electrical equipment is on electricity is being used. The way electricity is made causes CO₂ to be given off. If we use less electricity we wouldn't pollute the atmosphere so much.



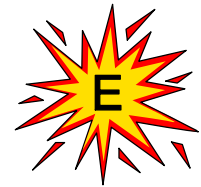
- You could turn down your heating in your home.



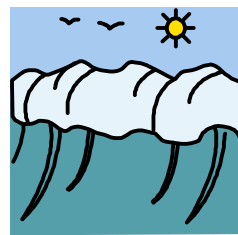
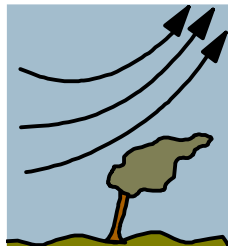
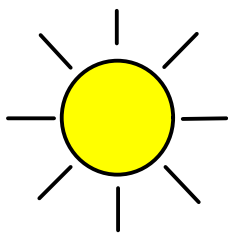
To heat your home you are using gas, electric, oil or coal. This also adds CO₂ to the atmosphere.



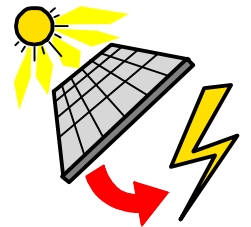
- You could use renewable energy.



You can get energy to make things work from the sun, wind and water.



You could use solar panels. These are big panes of special glass which soak in the heat of the sun and store the energy. This energy can be used later.



You could use wind turbines. Big windmills catch the energy coming from the wind and stores it which can be used again.



There will be more ideas on how to lower your carbon footprint in the future from the Environment Group.

