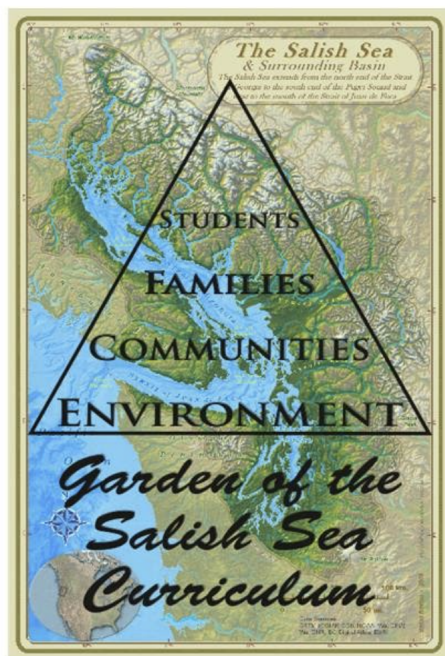




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Carbon Footprint Calculator



Pacific
Shellfish
Institute



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Essential Question: *What impacts the natural balance of the carbon cycle? How can we be stewards of the Salish Sea?*

Instructions: *All parts of this lab can be found in this document.
Read the page and click on the links as you go.*

Reading:

As you read, pay attention to the scientific vocabulary words (underlined and in bold).

As we interact with the **carbon cycle**, we often add carbon to the atmosphere by using fossil fuels, cutting down trees, etc. The impact we have on the carbon cycle

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can be calculated and is called a **carbon footprint**. The bulk of an individual's carbon footprint is most commonly from their transportation, housing, and food. Imagine someone who lives in a log house, cooks with firewood, grows all their own food, and uses animals to plow the land. Would they be adding extra carbon dioxide to the atmosphere?

The answer is no, everything they used was a part of the natural carbon cycle, where carbon dioxide is captured during photosynthesis and released again when living things respire or when the wood burns. They have a carbon footprint of zero. Everyday choices we make like our transportation to school, how we heat our home, and what we eat all have impacts to the carbon cycle and our carbon footprint.

Interactive Lab:

[Calculate Your Carbon Footprint](#)

Use the “basic calculator” designed for middle school. Be sure to leave the browser open once you get to the conclusion page so you can record your results.

Quiz: Record your results from the conclusion page →



Graph: Use this spreadsheet to graph your results →



Use the data in your table and the graph paper provided to make a bar graph that shows the amount of CO₂ in kilograms (dependent variable) for each category (independent variable). Make sure your graph includes all 5 elements of a quality graph.

Quiz: Explain your results using the graph you created →



Record your actions!

[Salish Sea Community Challenge](#)

[Salish Sea Challenge Bingo](#) (Place your bingo pieces on the actions you completed and use page 2 to record the number of times you have completed

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each action since your last GSSC lesson)

[**Salish Sea Watersheds Challenge Posters**](#)

[**Salish Sea Watersheds Challenge Poster \(large\)**](#)

Optional extensions

- [Video about carbon footprints \(5:01\)](#)

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