



## “THE CARBON FOOTPRINT”

Video sequence “The Carbon Footprint Sand”:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO7S\\_UWW7oo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO7S_UWW7oo)

### The Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It is connected to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation etc. The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide. A carbon footprint is made up of the sum of two parts, the primary footprint and the secondary footprint .

1. The primary footprint is a measure of our direct emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from the burning of fossil fuels including domestic energy consumption and transportation (e.g. car and plane). We have direct control of these.
2. The secondary footprint is a measure of the indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the whole lifecycle of products we use - those associated with their production and eventual breakdown. To put it very simply – the more we buy the more emissions will be caused on our behalf.

[Taken from: [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com); altered and shortened]

### Questions on the text:

1. Use your own words to explain what the carbon footprint is.
2. What is the main difference between the primary and the secondary footprint?
3. Explain why there’s an individual footprint for each of us.

Language:

Paraphrase the following words and phrases: *impact, greenhouse gases, fossil fuels, domestic energy consumption and lifecycle of products.*

### Your own footprint

Go to <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> and have your own carbon footprint calculated.

1. Which questions did you surprise most? Why?
2. What is your footprint in planets and in tonnes per annum?
3. Which part of your life has the greatest impact on your footprint? Is that a surprise for you?
4. Which personalised tips make sense? Why?