CPSG101 Carbon Footprint Infographic

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Present-Day Impacts

Logistics



Hypothetical Adult Impacts (family of 5)

Logistics

I live in: a single family home Size of Housing: 4,000+ sq ft. Solar/Wind/Hydropower/Nuclear: Some 1-49% Number of Residents: 5 Diet: average omnivore Total weekly above ground rail travel: 10,400 miles Total weekly below ground rail travel: 0 miles Bus: 20 miles Automobile: yes (x2) - electric: yes - average annual distance: 13,500 miles - average fuel economy: 130 mpg

Flying: 4,604 miles

Data



Total Carbon Footprint: 131.87 metric tons *equivalent to 47.95 hectares of tropical forest Per Capita Value: 26.37 metric tons Household and Food (per capita): 3.55 metric tons Transportation (per capita): 21.64 metric tons Air Travel (per capita): 0.18 metric tons

Explanation for Differences

My present day impacts and hypothetical adult impacts are drastically different because of the characteristics of my lifestyle that change throughout time. The basic layout appears to stay the same for both periods of my life. My housing size is 4,000+ sq ft. for both time periods because I am currently living on a college campus and I plan to live in a large house. My use of solar, wind, hydropower, and nuclear energy stays the same along with my diet.

The main differences begin with the people living in my household, as there is only one of me present day and five people living in my future family home. The most drastic changes are seen with my traveling habits. Present day, I will occasionally take the train to D.C. and use the bus system a few times during the week. It is too expensive for me to own a car and I never have a reason to fly, which is why I use a small amount of transportation present day; however, my daily practices change in the future.

In the future, my household and food consumption is a little less at 3.55 metric tons per capita because my family is sharing food. My transportation use is very different because I will use the metro system in the future to commute to and from work and my household has two cars (one travels 13,500 miles annually and the other travels 12,000 miles annually). These cars are both electric and have an average fuel economy of 130 mpg. I rarely use the bus, resulting in bus travel of about 20 miles per year. Lastly, we travel around 4,604 miles annually by plane for family vacations. These numbers represent how I have a much larger carbon footprint in the future because my transportation usage is 20 times what it is present day. Overall, having different priorities, a larger group of people to take care of, and more money to spend are the main deciding factors when determining why I have a larger carbon footprint in the future compared to my present day self.