

Measuring Your Carbon Footprint



The Open
University

Climate change: Carbon Footprints and Cycles



Aim of Activity:

- Introduction to the carbon cycle and anthropogenic impacts on it

Description of Activity:

- This is an interactive workshop introducing the carbon cycle and human impact on the climate. Using carbon footprint calculators we will look at the impact each of us has on the carbon cycle and the effect this could have on global climate

Links with curriculum:

- Links to general science

Learning outcomes. Students will:

- Appreciate the benefits and excitement of studying about environmental issues at higher education level and be able to make a more informed decision about whether to study further in this area
- Gain an understanding of the complexity of climate change
- Understand the carbon cycle and human impacts on it
- Use carbon calculators to discuss individual emission levels and what can be done to reduce them
- Gain a general understanding of how supported open learning, distance learning and on-line learning can provide viable alternative degree routes to campus-based study

Time required for activity:

One hour

Number of students:

Maximum 25

Minimum 10

Time	Activity	Description
10 minutes	Brainstorm/Intro	Quick whole group brainstorm to get an idea of perceptions of climate change. Leading questions: what do you think climate change is? What do we actually mean when we talk about climate? How is it measured? What affects it? What effect is climate change having? What can we do about it?
25 minutes	Powerpoint slideshow with discussion (discussion/questions can be extended dependent on group)	Students are presented with data about how global temperature has changed. Interactive discussion about questions that they should be asking when presented with such data e.g. how measurements are made etc What affects climate? Introduction to carbon cycle and anthropogenic effects
10 minutes	Brainstorm in small groups	What do you think should be taken into account when calculating personal carbon footprints?
	Whole group discussion	Compare ideas with an actual carbon calculator and discuss ideas to reduce emissions

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Aimhigher...

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