

# Carbon Footprint

The vast majority of energy we use today is derived from the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, wood, or biomass. A carbon footprint, as commonly known, is simply the weight of carbon or carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year from the burning of fossil fuels. The carbon footprint, however, can be expressed in other ways that are more useful and more consistent with the original ecological footprint concept: the area of the Earth's surface needed to absorb those emissions. On average, it takes roughly 41 acres to absorb one ton of carbon emissions. Other gases that contribute to global warming — such as methane from waste — are converted into "carbon equivalent" units then added to the carbon footprint. Using Interfaith Power and Light's Cool Congregations Carbon Calculator we estimated our congregations' carbon footprint:

<b>Footprint:</b>	<b>Pounds of Carbon:</b>	<b>Acres:</b>
First Trinity-St. Matthew's	119,385	229
Per Sunday morning worshipper	1357	25
Energy	106,655	1991
Transportation	3715	69
Goods/Services	4429	83
Waste	4586	86
Number of congregations in the developing world that could be supported by our energy use		29

