

DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP



Beginner Level Participation

CARBON CARETAKER

At this stage, you are taking the first steps toward reducing your carbon footprint by focusing on foundational actions that require little to no upfront cost. These efforts create immediate savings, improve your home's comfort, and set the stage for long-term sustainability. As a Carbon Caretaker, you're building awareness and crafting a plan to make your home more energy-efficient, waste-conscious, and environmentally friendly. Staying on top of home energy assessments ensures you have access to the latest incentives and recommendations to maximize your impact.

Carbon savings estimates are approximate and vary based on energy sources, home size, and usage. For a precise assessment, consult a sustainability expert.

YOUR DECARB ROADMAP

WASTE MEASURES

Recycle correctly by following best practices for your local recycling program. (3,000 lb CO₂)

Start composting food scraps with a local service or backyard bin. (40 lb CO₂)

Reduce single-use plastics by using reusable containers and bags. (150 lb CO₂)

Donate or reuse materials from home renovation projects instead of discarding them. (1,000 lb CO₂)



ENERGY MEASURES

Upgrade insulation in attic and walls to improve home efficiency. (2,500 lb CO₂)

Switch to LED lighting. (500 lb CO₂)

Install weather stripping on doors and windows to reduce air leaks. (1,000 lb CO₂)

Use programmable or smart thermostats to optimize heating and cooling. (1,200 lb CO₂)

Lower the temperature of the water heater to 120°F to reduce energy use. (500 lb CO₂)



WATER MEASURES

Install low-flow aerators on faucets and showerheads. (100 lb CO₂)

Fix leaky faucets and toilets to prevent unnecessary water waste. (200 lb CO₂)

Use a dishwasher instead of handwashing, and run dishwashers and washing machines only when full. (100 lb CO₂)

TRANSPORTATION & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT MEASURES

Switch to electric yard equipment (leaf blowers, mowers, etc.). (700 lb CO₂)

Walk, bike, or take public transit for short trips instead of driving. (500 lb CO₂)



**Total Estimated Carbon
Reduction:
~11,000 lbs CO₂/year
(~250 trees)**

WHAT'S IN YOUR FOOTPRINT?

The average U.S. household generates over **100,000 pounds of CO₂ per year**. While the numbers vary by household, the biggest contributors are typically:

- ▷ **Transportation (28%): An average gas-powered car emits ~10,000 lbs of CO₂ per year.**
Top actions: Reduce gas-powered car use and fly less—one round-trip flight can emit up to 4,000 lbs CO₂.
- ▷ **Home Energy Use (27%): Oil or gas heat emits ~6,000–10,000 lbs of CO₂ per year.**
Top actions: Electrify heating and appliances, weatherize, and choose renewable power.
- ▷ **Food (14%): A high-meat diet emits ~3,300 lbs more CO₂ per year than a plant-rich one and wasted food accounts for up to 8,000 lbs of CO₂ per household annually.**
Top actions: Eat fewer animal products and reduce food waste through better planning, storage, and donation.
- ▷ **Goods & Services (31%): New goods often add ~5,000–10,000 lbs CO₂ per year.**
Top actions: Buy less, choose reused or repairable items, and support low-carbon companies.

Understanding your carbon footprint is the first step toward reducing emissions, lowering costs, and building a more resilient community.

Multiply Your Impact:

Tell others about what you're doing

Bring your workplace or school on board

Get involved in local government or climate action organizations.

Opt into renewable electricity

ARE YOU A BUSINESS OWNER?

CET is proud to offer Carbon Conscious Business Accreditation, aimed at recognizing and celebrating the efforts of businesses committed to reducing their carbon footprint. To qualify for the award, your business must demonstrate a strong commitment to decarbonization through measurable actions and outcomes.

Learn more at: cetonline.org/carbon-conscious-business-accreditation



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