

DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP



Advanced Level Participation

CARBON CRUSADER

At this level, you are leading the charge in home decarbonization with comprehensive, long-term investments that have maximum impact. As a Carbon Crusader, you're committed to fully electrifying your home, adopting renewable energy, achieving zero-waste living, and transforming how you travel. These choices not only significantly reduce your own emissions, but also set an example for your community, proving that a carbon-free home is possible. Keeping up with home energy assessments helps identify new opportunities and incentives to support your decarbonization journey.

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

Implement deconstruction and salvaging for kitchen renovations instead of demolition. (8,000 lb CO₂)

Eliminate all single-use plastics by switching to reusable alternatives. (500 lb CO₂)



ENERGY MEASURES

Install triple-pane high-efficiency windows throughout the home. (2,500 lb CO₂)

Fully electrify home heating, cooking, and water heating with heat pumps and induction cooktops. (8,000 lb CO₂)

See if your home is a good candidate for a solar PV system with battery backup. (8,500 lb CO₂)

WATER MEASURES

Install a greywater recycling system to reuse household water. (1,000 lb CO₂)

Replace all high-water-use fixtures with ultra-low-flow alternatives. (500 lb CO₂)

Convert lawn space to drought-resistant native plants. (700 lb CO₂)

TRANSPORTATION & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT MEASURES

Replace your gasoline car with a fully electric vehicle. (8,000 lb CO₂)

Eliminate the need for a second car by using e-bikes, public transit, or car-sharing services. (3,000 lb CO₂)

Total Estimated Carbon Reduction:
~40,500 lbs CO₂/year
(~1,000 trees equivalent)

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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