

# DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP



Intermediate Level Participation

## CARBON CUTTER

As a Carbon Cutter, you are deepening your commitment to sustainability by making moderate-cost improvements that significantly reduce your carbon footprint. These actions go beyond the basics, requiring some financial investment and lifestyle changes, but result in greater energy savings, efficiency, and waste reduction. This level is about actively cutting emissions in your daily life while benefiting from lower utility bills and a more resilient home. Regular home energy assessments can help ensure you're maximizing available incentives and the latest efficiency improvements.

*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

Participate in curbside composting (if available) to reduce landfill waste. (40 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

Use reclaimed materials instead of purchasing new ones for home renovation projects to avoid emissions from manufacturing. (8,000 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>)



## ENERGY MEASURES

Conduct full home weatherization & air sealing for maximum efficiency. (3,500 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

Install insulated cellular shades or other window coverings to reduce heat losses and gains during the heating and cooling seasons. (1,000 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

Replace the water heater with an energy-efficient heat pump water heater. (2,000 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

Offset your fossil fuel heating system with an electric heat pump. (850-2,000+ lb CO<sub>2</sub>)



## WATER MEASURES

Replace old appliances with Energy Star-rated washing machines and dishwashers. (500 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

Install a rainwater collection barrel to water plants and gardens. (200 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

Reduce outdoor water use by switching to native plant landscaping. (300 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)

## TRANSPORTATION & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT MEASURES

Increase carpooling or use of public transit to reduce driving emissions. (1,500 lb CO<sub>2</sub>)



**Total Estimated Carbon  
Reduction:  
~20,500 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>/year  
(~400+ trees equivalent)**

# WHAT'S IN YOUR FOOTPRINT?

The average U.S. household generates over **100,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> per year.**  
Top actions: Reduce gas-powered car use and fly less—one round-trip flight can emit up to 4,000 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ▷ **Home Energy Use (27%): Oil or gas heat emits ~6,000–10,000 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.**  
Top actions: Electrify heating and appliances, weatherize, and choose renewable power.
- ▷ **Food (14%): A high-meat diet emits ~3,300 lbs more CO<sub>2</sub> per year than a plant-rich one and wasted food accounts for up to 8,000 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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](https://cetonline.org/carbon-conscious-business-accreditation)



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