**Calculating Your Household’s Carbon Footprint**

The phrase “household carbon footprint” is frequently used to describe the total CO2 emissions associated with a household’s energy consumption, which includes transportation. The EPA has estimated that the average four person household in the US emits 83,000 pounds of CO2 in a year. Ask your parent for your household’s recent electric, gas, and/or oil bills so you can more accurately calculate your household’s energy consumption. Since your energy bills vary by season, use an average of winter and summer values if you can.

**Pre-activity**

1. What is the primary heating source for your home? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(for example: natural gas, oil, electricity, wood, propane)

2. How much of each energy source does your household use per month? It is best if you can get an average for the year. Answer using **one of the units** in parentheses.

a. Natural gas (dollars, thousand cubic feet, therms) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Electricity (dollars, kilowatt-hours) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. Fuel oil (dollars, gallons) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. Propane (dollars, gallons) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does your household purchase green energy? (yes or no)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many vehicles does your household use?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. For each vehicle,

a. how many miles per week (or miles per year)?

b. what is the average gas mileage (in miles per gallon)?

6. Circle all the materials that your household recycles.

a. Aluminum

b. Steel

c. Plastic

d. Glass

e. Newspaper

f. Magazines