

Understanding Carbon Footprints

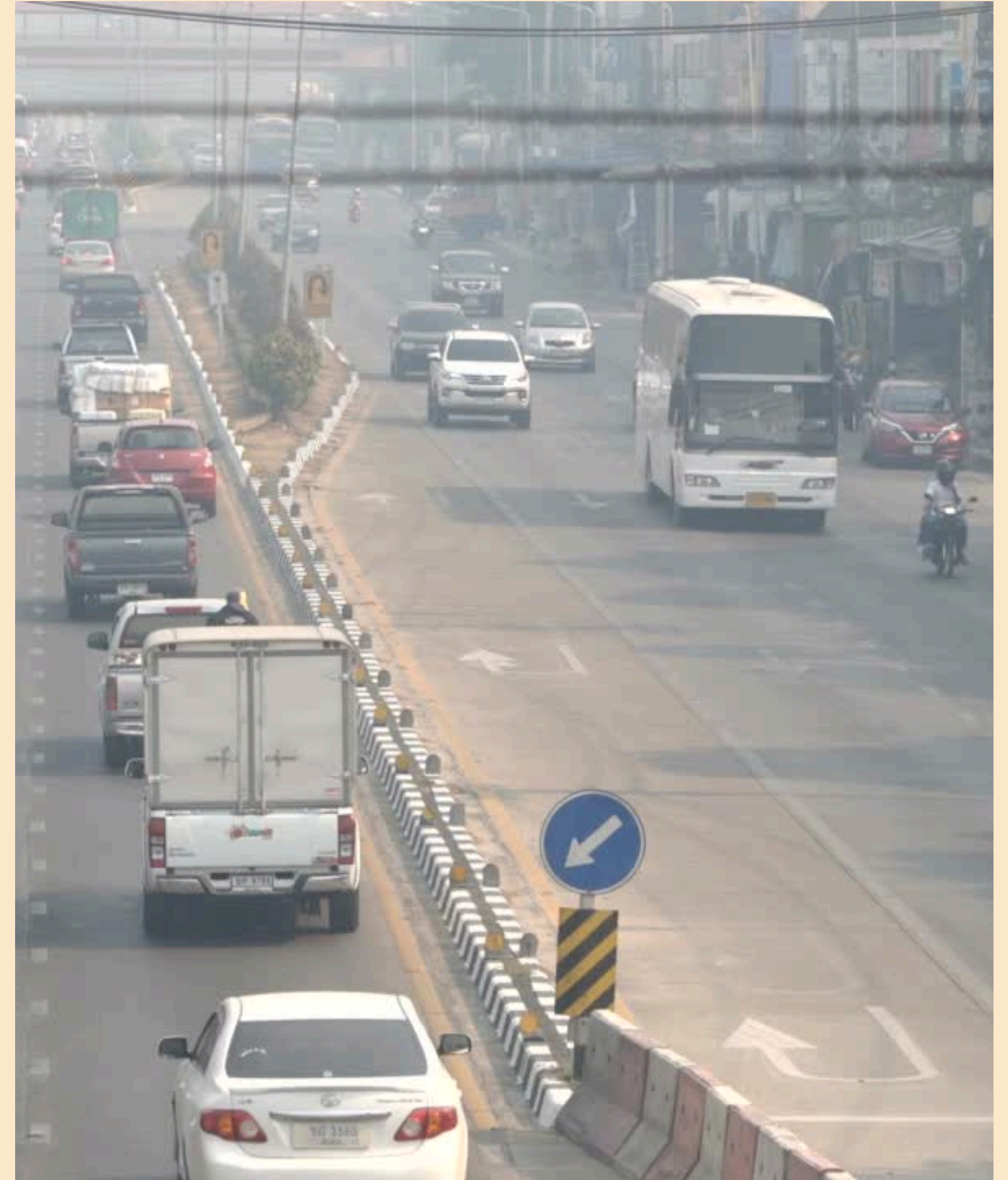
Presented by:



What is a "Carbon Footprint"?

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide and methane) that are emitted into the atmosphere by our actions. Everything we do, from the food we eat to the way we travel, has a carbon footprint.

How might the foods we eat contribute to carbon emissions?



How Carbon Footprints Are Measured?

Carbon footprints are measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). This measurement helps us understand the overall impact of our activities on climate change, as different greenhouse gases have different effects on the atmosphere.



Everyday Activities and Their Carbon Footprints

Different daily activities have varying carbon footprints. For example, driving a car emits more carbon than riding a bike, and eating meat has a higher carbon footprint than eating vegetables. Understanding these differences can help us make more eco-friendly choices.



Carbon Footprints of Common Activities

Here's a look at the carbon footprints of some everyday activities.

- Driving a car: 0.96 kg CO₂ per mile
- Flying: 0.24 kg CO₂ per mile
- Eating a hamburger: 2.5 kg CO₂ per burger
- Using electricity: 0.475 kg CO₂ per kWh

Which activity has the biggest carbon footprint?



Why Reducing Carbon Footprints Matters

High carbon footprints contribute to climate change, which leads to problems like global warming, sea-level rise, and extreme weather. Reducing our carbon footprints can help mitigate these effects and protect the planet for future generations.

How do you think a rise in temperatures affect the weather?



How Can We Reduce Our Carbon Footprints?

Simple actions like using public transport, recycling, conserving energy, and eating less meat can make a big difference. Even small changes in our daily lives can collectively have a big impact on reducing carbon emissions.

What do you recycle at home? What is something you could make more of an effort to recycle in the future?



Every Action Counts

Even small changes in our daily lives can collectively have a big impact on reducing carbon emissions. When many people make small changes, it can lead to significant reductions in overall carbon emissions.

Think about the small things that you do on a daily basis, like packing your lunch or showering. What is something small you could do in that routine that would help make a difference in your carbon footprint?



Case Study: A Carbon Footprint Success Story

The city of Copenhagen aims to become the world's first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. By investing in wind farms, cycling infrastructure, and energy-efficient buildings, Copenhagen has significantly reduced its carbon emissions and serves as an example of what can be achieved through collective action.

What's one thing in your city that you wish you could change to be more environmentally friendly?

Photo credit: National Geographic



Make a Difference!

Now that you know about carbon footprints, think about ways you can reduce your own. Every effort counts towards a healthier planet! Start with one or two simple changes and build from there. Together, we can make a big difference.

Brainstorm small changes you can make at school to reduce your carbon footprint.

