

Name: _____

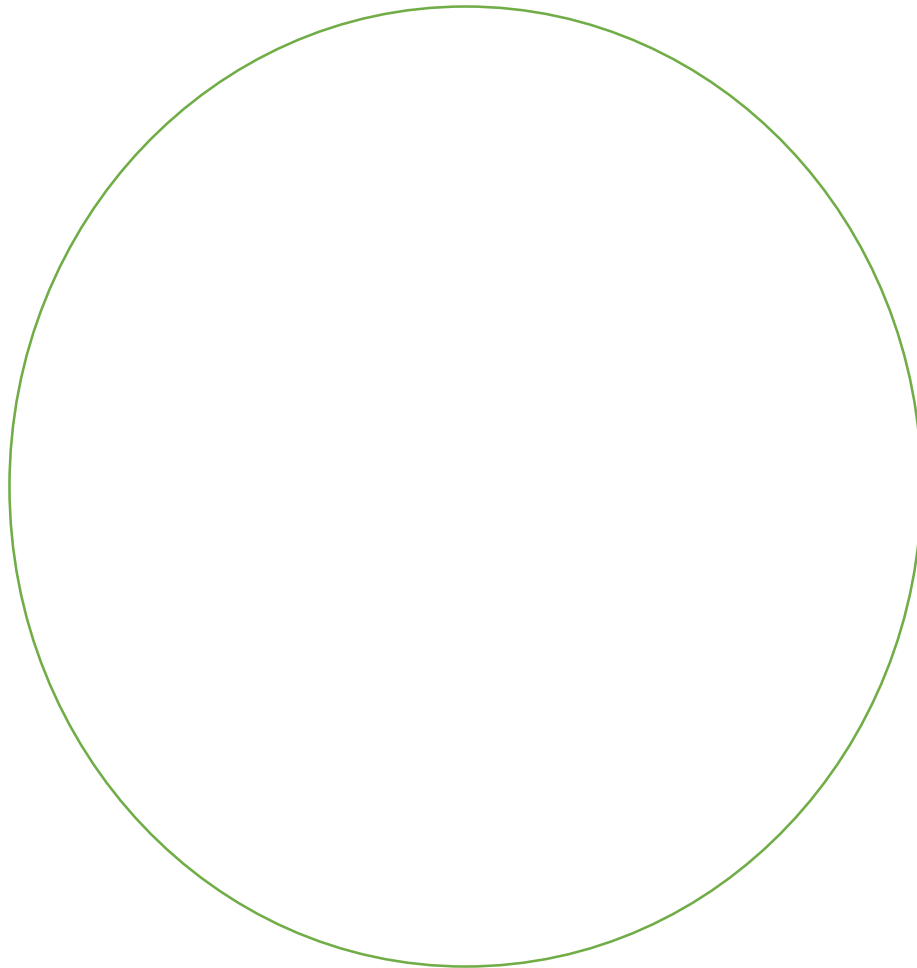
Period: _____

Ecological Footprint

Each of us consumes some of the Earth's products and services every day. How much we take depends on the ways in which we satisfy our needs and wants — the many habits that together create our lifestyle. We can ask ourselves these questions to get a better sense of what these habits are: How much water do I use on a typical day? What do I eat and how much do I eat? How much food do I waste? How do I transport myself and how far do I go? How much clothing and footwear do I have and how often do I replace it? What and how much stuff do I buy? How much energy and materials are required to keep me dry and warm/cool? How much garbage do I produce? How much land and energy is used for my recreational activities?

In the 1990s, sustainability gurus Mathis Wackernagel and Bill Rees coined the term “ecological footprint” to refer to the load or demand that we place on the Earth's resources. An ecological footprint is a measure of how much of the Earth's biologically productive land and water is needed to produce our food, material goods, and energy, and to absorb our waste

Our “living” Earth has a surface area of 51 billion hectares, but less than one quarter of this — under 12 billion hectares — is biologically productive for human use. This is the amount of land available on the planet to provide all of the food, water, and other materials that we need to support ourselves.



An ecological footprint calculation provides a baseline from which to measure progress toward a smaller footprint and more sustainable lifestyle. Set a few goals for yourself (ie. to eat less meat or to spend more time outdoors) and re-calculate your footprint.

Goals set:

Current ecological footprint: _____

Re-calculated footprint: _____



How many planets we'd need if everyone lived like a resident of the following:

Balanced Budget	Global Deficit
USA 5 Planets	
UK 3.4	
Argentina 1.7	
South Africa 1.5	
China 1.0	
India 0.4	
World Average 1.4	

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