



FOOTPRINT FACTS

- **8.9 global hectares per person (based on 2011-12 data)**
- **Our average footprint is 3.5 times the global average**
- **Our footprint is 14 times the size of the ACT**



ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

An ecological footprint measures the amount of land and water required to produce goods and services and absorb waste (including carbon).

Main Findings

For the period 2011-12 Canberra's ecological footprint was 8.9 global hectares per person. Global hectares mean productive land and excludes deserts and ice-caps.

The main component of our ecological footprint is **household spending**.

The greater the household income the more disposable income is spent on air and car travel and the construction and furnishing of new buildings.

One Planet Living

At the present we consume too many of the world's resources and emit too much carbon into the air. If we were using our fair share we would need to reduce our lifestyles so we lived on 1.8 hectare per person.

Ideas for reducing Canberra's footprint

1. Spend less - switch to activities for spending time together rather than shopping



Shop Less



Get involved in community or family activities. This helps build stronger communities.



FACT SHEET

ACT State of the Environment Report 2015

Top 10 items that Canberrans buy that impact our footprint - how can you reduce your impact?

Consumption Category	%	What can I do to reduce my use?	How can you reduce your footprint? <i>Write your ideas here.</i>
1. Electricity	12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn devices off at power points • Turn lights off • Turn the heater down • Take shorter showers • Install insulation & seal gaps 	ACT Government initiatives: 100% renewable electricity by 2020 & ACTSmart programs - www.actsmart.act.gov.au
2. Eating out	6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make your lunch • Eat at cafes that use local foods • Choose vegetarian options 	Organise a picnic/community meal
3. Petrol	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk, cycle or catch public transport to school, work, shops 	Allow people to work from home 1 day per week
4. Natural Gas	4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn the heater down • Take shorter showers • Install insulation & seal gaps 	ACT Government initiative: ACTSmart programs - www.actsmart.act.gov.au
5. Air travel	4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid plane flights and holiday locally 	Attend e-conferences rather than overseas conferences
6. Food (meat & wheat products not included)	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow vegetables & fruit • Buy food from Farmers Markets • Choose 'nude' food (food without excess packaging eg a banana) 	Reduce food waste
7. Home ownership	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sustainable products when building • Build smaller better quality homes 	
8. Beer & malt	2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy sustainable locally made beer & malt products • Brew your own 	
9. Clothing	2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy quality clothes made of natural materials (avoid synthetics) • Buy second hand clothes • Repair clothes 	Organise a clothes swap
10. Wooden furniture	2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy quality furniture from recycled or sustainably harvested timbers • Buy second hand furniture 	Start up a repair cafe

More information on this topic is available at:

<http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/ecological-footprints>

Canberra's Ecological Footprint: what does it mean?

http://reports.envcomm.act.gov.au/actsoe2011/library/Ecological-Footprint_120124.pdf

Buying choices for a more sustainable Canberra

http://www.envcomm.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/590930/BUYING_CHOICES_Sept12.pdf