

# HOW TO DO A HOUSEHOLD CARBON AUDIT

*Below are instructions for calculating your carbon footprint using the Carbonless Promise Calculators via the Trinity website.*

*As part of Trinity's G3 go green with God initiative, we are encouraging all Trinity households to do a carbon audit. Depending on the level of detail you would like to have for your household, there are three types of information you can audit: your dwellings, your vehicles and your flights.*

## Gather the Necessary Information

### Option 1: Basic Audit - Your Dwellings

The calculator allows you to put in information for multiple dwellings. You can include your primary residence, cabin, winter residence, vacation home, etc., in this audit. Start with your primary residence and then add any additional dwellings that you own. The calculators allow you to add information for 2007, 2008, and 2009. Start with 2007 and 2008; use the 2009 field at the end of 2009. Entering information for each year allows you to track your carbon emissions over time and will help you meet carbon emission reductions goals that you set for your household.

For each dwelling, you will need the following information:

1. State (the U.S. state this dwelling is located in)
2. Street address
3. Size of dwelling in square footage
4. Number of occupants (for primary residence only)
5. Annual electric usage in kilowatt hours (kWh)
6. Annual natural gas usage in Therms
7. Annual propane and/or heating oil usage in gallons (if applicable)

The most accurate calculation results from entering the annual totals from 12 months of utility bills. If you have your utility bills, add your electrical usage in kWh for all 12 months together for each year. You will have a total for 2007 and for 2008. Then add together your natural gas usage in Therms for all 12 months for each year. You will have a total for 2007 and for 2008. Once you enter your annual electricity usage, the program on the website will use coefficients published by the EPA for green house gas emissions in your state per kWh of electricity generated and Therm of natural gas used.

If you don't have all of your old bills from 2007 and 2008, you can request the information from your utility company. If you are a Minnesota resident you can contact the Xcel Energy Residential



Call Center at 1-800-895-4999. After dialing, select option four to talk with a customer service representative. You will need to have your Xcel account number and your Social Security number ready so that the customer service representative can find your account and verify your identity. Once an agent comes on the phone, ask them for your bill history for both electricity and natural gas usage for 2007 and 2008. They can give it to you over the phone, send it to you via email or via the mail. Once you receive this information use the annual totals (rather than the monthly totals) for each year. On your annual electric bill history this information is located at the bottom of column five and on your annual natural gas bill history at the bottom of column four.

### Option 2: More Detailed Audit - Your Dwellings + Your Vehicles + Your Flights

If you'd like to add your vehicles to your audit, you will need the following information for each car:

1. Model year
2. Make
3. Model
4. Miles driven in 2007, 2008, and, at the end of the year 2009

If you'd like to add your flights to your audit, you will need the following information for each flight:

1. Departing airport
2. Destination airport
3. Year of the trip (2007, 2008, or 2009)



## 2. Do the Audit

Once you have the necessary information pulled together, you are ready to go online to do the carbon audit.

1. Go to [www.trinitylc.org/g3.aspx](http://www.trinitylc.org/g3.aspx). Click on the link Carbon Calculator for your household. This will take you to Carbonless Promise's Trinity webpage. Create an account for your household by entering the required information. Select a username and password; write it down so that you can easily get back into your account.
2. Once you have created your account, click on the link for the Annual Footprint calculator. Fill in the information for the basic audit or the more detailed audit.
3. Read through your results and record them some where for your use during Trinity's G3 initiative.
4. Talk over your results as a family and decide what actions you would like to take in the coming months to reduce your carbon footprint. Tips for taking action can be found on Trinity's website on the G3 page and on the Carbonless Promise website.

