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What is my carbon footprint?

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Summary: Human beings are having a profound impact on the environment. The opportunity to investigate this timely issue during one or two class periods gives algebra and precalculus students insight into a sustainability topic of great international concern – carbon footprints. Students use mathematical thinking in matters that are pertinent to their everyday lives. Further, they use key quantitative reasoning and mathematical modeling skills: interpreting units, computing with large values, using assumptions to derive an appropriate mathematical model (in this case, a linear model), using models to make predictions, and understanding when a model is appropriate for making predictions – practices aligned with Principles and Standards for School Mathematics and the Common Core Standards. This article presents a classroom-tested activity that uses authentic, diet-related data to focus on sustainability. (ERIC)

Classification: M50 M60

Keywords: algebra; mathematical models; mathematics skills

http://www.nctm.org/Publications/Mathematics-Teacher/2016/Vol109/Issue7/What-Is-My-Carbon-Footprint_/