

## **Cutting Carbon and Having Fun: The Carbon Footprint Game**

More and more people today know that climate change is real, is caused by people, and is hurting people and the web of life right now. We know that our actions as individuals, families, congregations, businesses – and yes, even governments – can make a difference. The Carbon Footprint game was developed to invite participation of the whole congregation to act in their personal lives and as members of communities on this global issue. It invites children and adults to share in this important work together.

The game was developed and tested by congregations in the national capitol area. It helps to stimulate discussion between youth and adults about what each of us can do to make this world a safer, healthier place. Many are already taking actions to reduce their carbon footprints. The game visibly celebrates what we are doing, and encourages new and renewed efforts, big and small.

The game covers four subjects: **Home Energy, Food and Water, Transportation, and Recycling and Reuse.**

Some congregations devote a week for each topic. Others spend a month per topic. What's common is a large, black Carbon Footprint, placed prominently in the Church. For each topic, there are hand-outs, ideas and inspiration, social justice actions linked to the topic and STICKERS! The goal of the Carbon Footprint game is to cover as much of the big, black Carbon Footprint with stickers as possible, reducing this visible black as a symbol of the congregation is reducing its own carbon footprints. The object is to for the



game to be fun – but it has a serious side as well. Extreme weather and climate change is felt first and most strongly by people who are poor. Immigrants, minorities and poor neighbors are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards that include pesticides, lead, landfills, polluting industrial facilities, pipelines and incinerators.

## **A How-to Guide for Congregations**

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax VA, Green Souls of All Souls Unitarian DC, and climate activists at Cedar Lane and River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregations (MD) and the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice created this information kit to assist other congregations in taking steps to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) developed a turn-key How To guide with materials that can be duplicated or adapted to fit congregations' needs. Catholic, United Church of Christ, Episcopalian and Unitarian Universalist congregations have played the game, and the toolkit is being adapted based on their experiences.



### **For more information:**

<https://uucf.org/social-justice/social-action-groups/cag/carbon-footprint-game/>

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