

Top 3 Reasons to Calculate Your Environmental Footprint

1. **Knowing your environmental footprint will Improve Your Bottom Line:** Your environmental footprint helps you to reduce utility bills; align your company with current regulatory compliance; minimize risk; cut expenses on unnecessary waste; and more.
2. **Environmental Stewardship: Be Part of the Solution, Not the Problem:** Society is pressuring companies to conform. Recent studies indicate:
 - U.S. organizations waste \$2.8 billion/yr. and emit about 20 million tons CO₂ from PCs that aren't shut down at night
 - Energy use could double by 2050
 - In the past 50 years, humans have consumed more resources than in all previous history
 - 55% of assessed river and stream miles are in poor condition
 - 127 million people live in areas that exceed air quality standards
 - 1.8 billion people will live in regions with fresh water scarcity by 2025
3. **Positive Press for Your Company Drives New Business:** Companies that understand their environmental impact are more likely to make changes – driving positive write-ups, new business, increased suppliers, and potential partners.

How Do You Get Started?

*Just as a fingerprint is unique to a person, an environmental footprint is unique to a company.
Make sure you have the right resources and data to calculate yours.*

Step 1: Understand the strategy and goals of your organization. *This is probably the most important step before delving into change.*

Step 2: Determine what you want to calculate. *There are numerous footprints linked to environmental efforts that you can calculate. First you'll want to determine which one is right for you? Examples include: carbon, greenhouse gas, water, energy, and more. Or is it more important for your company to calculate your entire systems environmental impact. By looking at it from a systems perspective, instead of a point solution, you will be able to identify your entire company's impact and manage your company-wide risks.*

Step 3: Identify the Tools Available to Help You. *Look at combinations of creating internal teams, hiring outside resources, reviewing and utilizing online tools and assessments to maximize your investment.*

Step 4: Gather Data. *Use your resources – people, bills, other data points available within your company.*

Step 5: Now What? *Have a plan for how you are going to implement changes to counteract what you discovered. Remember this exercise is not just about calculating your environmental footprint, but being able to put a plan of action in place to Reduce Your Environmental Footprint.*

For more information on how GaMEP can help calculate your Environmental Footprint:

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Expertise includes: ISO 14001, environmental regulatory compliance, sustainability, water/wastewater, & more

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