

Earth Café 2050

What will life be like?

Step 1: Place your Order!

Answer the following questions as accurately as possible.

1. What is your food consumption pattern? (circle one)

- a. Eat meat daily, most food is pre-packaged
- b. Eat meat occasionally, with a mix of packaged foods and local produce.
- c. Eat meat rarely, with little packaged foods and mostly local produce.
- d. Vegetarian relying mostly on locally grown foods.

2. Which most accurately characterizes your transportation needs? (circle one)

- a. Mostly drive your personal car (~ 30 miles per gallon), and spend less than 10 hours traveling on a plane per year.
- b. Mostly drive your personal car (~ 20 miles per gallon), and spend more than 10 hours on a plane per year.
- c. Mostly drive your personal car (~ 15 miles per gallon), and spend more than 10 hours on a plane per year.
- d. Mostly drive your personal car (~ 15 miles per gallon), and spend less than 10 hours on a plane per year.
- e. Mostly take public transit, drive a personal car occasionally, and spend less than 5 hours per year on a plane.

3. How many people are in your household? _____

4. What size is your house or apartment? (Circle one)

- a. Small (<700 sq ft)
- b. Medium (700-1200 sq. ft)
- c. Average (1200-1700 sq ft)
- d. Above average (1700-2200 sq ft)
- e. Large (>2200 sq ft)

5. Which best categorizes your household waste production of paper, metals, glass and plastic (not including what is recycled or composted)? (The US average amount of waste per month is 34 lbs.)

- a. Throw away more than average, recycle little. (More than 50 lbs per month of waste)
- b. Throw away slightly more than average, recycle most glass, cans and other metals (between 40-50 lbs per month).
- c. Throw away mostly paper and paperboard products, some plastics, but recycle most glass and metals (30-40 lbs total waste per month).
- d. Throw away less than average, recycle paper, metals, glass and plastic (20-30 lbs per month).
- e. Produce very little waste; reuse and recycle most items (less than 20 lbs per month).

6. Evaluate the goods and services in your household:

- a. How many pieces of electronic equipment are in your house? (computers, TVs, stereos, VCR & DVD players, etc.) (Circle one)
~ 5 ~ 10 ~ 20 ~ 30
- b. How many furnished rooms do you have in your house? (Circle one)
~ 4 ~ 6 ~ 8 ~ 10
- c. How many major appliances do you have in your house? (fridge, freezer, washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, etc.) (Circle one)
~ 2 ~ 4 ~ 6 ~ 8
- d. How many cars are owned by your household? (Circle one)
0 1 2 3 4

Step 2: Pick Up Your Order!

Please give this slip to the Earth Café Staff, and we will serve you wooden blocks representing the productive land required to support your current lifestyle. The small and large blocks represent 1.0 and 0.25 acres respectively. The color represents the category (food, transportation, housing, waste, and goods & services). Place your blocks flat with the gray rectangle on your tray.

Ecological Footprinting

The ecological footprint is a technique that quantifies the land resources required to support humans depending on their lifestyles. Using your “menu driven” information, we calculated your footprint using Wackernagel’s 2003 *Household Ecological Footprint Calculator*. This method requires some simple assumptions about the weight of various goods and average number of pieces of furniture per room to easily convert your answers into units of productive land.

Today’s ecological footprint exercise illustrates the human impact on the environment by acknowledging how many earths would be required if everyone in 2050 lived at your current standard of living.

For more information on Ecological Footprinting, visit the following websites:

Ecological Footprint Network

<http://www.naturalstrategies.com/efn/>

Redefining Progress

<http://www.naturalstrategies.com/efn/>

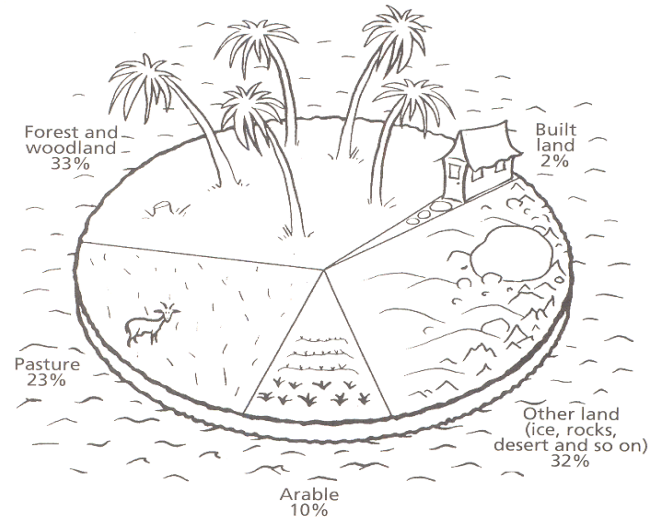
Best Foot Forward

<http://www.bestfootforward.com/>

Global Living Project

<http://www.globallivingproject.org/>

Earth Café 2050 was designed by the students in the 2004 Environmental Studies Capstone course at Ithaca College.



Welcome to Earth Café 2050

The year is 2050, and there are 9 billion people on the earth (a moderate projection). Approximately 12% of the productive land has been set aside for all other species on earth (an underestimate in the opinion of most ecologists). Each person has a “fair share” of 3 acres (1.19 hectares) of productive land to support their lifestyle. What will life be like? Order from the Earth Café and find out!

“The web of life connects all species. Some of their interactions are direct, some indirect; some [are] obvious, some cryptic. But when one component of a system is lost, consequences ramify through the forest, the region, the entire biosphere. . . . [D]espite our dependence on these [forest] species and the ecosystems they comprise, the study of their working and its value to us is only in its infancy. We are only beginning to understand ancient forests.”

Elliott A. Norse. *Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest*

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