Mobile Carbon Footprinting

Footprint Feedback & Pathway Diary Guide

I am trying to...

- Complete the follow-up survey > Pages 2-3
- 👽 Start the Week Plan Pilot 🛛 🕨 🕨 Page 22
- Start tracking my footprint Page 26

Contents







What is Mobile Carbon Footprinting?

MCF is a smartphone app-based system that facilitates tracking daily activities and their carbon footprints. The three main objectives are to help participants:

(1)

Learn about everyday carbon emissions over time

As we record personalized Pathway Diaries, we can observe:

- the range of everyday activities that figure into carbon footprints,
- how much our carbon footprints change from day to day,
- which activities cause meaningful differences in footprints,
- and what alternative activities could improve our footprints and climate impacts.

The goal of MCF is to make a shared tool for quickly developing carbon literacy.

2

Test out what scale of changes to daily activities are needed to meet emissions reduction goals

Once we have a sense of our everyday patterns of emissions, we can experiment with what it might take to improve those footprints to levels that align with emissions reduction targets such as those in the Paris Climate Agreement.

We can also start to identify what other changes will need to take place in our homes, neighborhoods, towns, and energy systems to achieve the scale and timetable of emissions reductions that local, national, and international plans call for.

3

See how our personal emissions contribute to larger changes in our community groups' footprints

The 2019-2020 pilot program was organized around groups at MIT, Harvard, and the general public. Participants can compare their student groups and Courses at MIT, and their schools at Harvard, to see if they were increasing or decreasing their groups' carbon footprints.

In the app, these displays of participants' contributions to groups are very basic now, but I hope to make them more useful for future studies.





Completing the 2019-2020 App Pilot: Footprint feedback & follow-up survey



Look at your Footprint Feedback

Click on any part of the Feedback screens to explore the options for viewing your footprint.

If the time at the top of the screen isn't recent, click on the Refresh button to load the most recent data.



Learn more about these feedback screens and footprint estimates on Pages 3-X of this guide.

Before starting the survey, review your carbon footprint on the Home screen, Footprint screen, and Compare screen. Try out the Week/ Year Plan screens to see how each activity affects your footprint.

2 Scroll to

Scroll to the Follow-Up Survey Button

After you have reviewed your footprint, scroll to Study Progress at the bottom of the Home Screen and click the Follow-Up button.



3 Complete the Follow-Up Survey

Fill out the Follow-Up survey, observing the differences in the question prompts (e.g. what activities did you do in March, what activities do you currently do, etc.) for the same set of statements. Press Submit Survey at the end.

4

Continue to the Week Plan & Diary

After submitting the survey, you can continue to the Week Plan pilot (see Page 22).

SET YOUR WEEKLY PLAN FOR 8/9-8/15									
Plan for This Week									
Current footprint: 5.2 t/y So far, your footprint exceeds your goal of 2.7 tons per year by 96%.									
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KEY The footprint estimates only include confirmed days since Feb 13th 19; see the Footprint Progress by Phase section below for more info. Outprint and the footprint Progress by Phase section below for more info. Outprint and the phase section below for more info. Descripted days avoid and account of the phase result. Descripted days avoid and account of the phase result.									
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Introduction to Footprint Feedback

"Footprint feedback" are the charts and other visualizations that show your carbon footprint estimates, based on your Pathway Diaries. See the following pages for descriptions of the concepts that appear in the feedback:

Footprint Categories▶ Page 5Goals, Budgets, and Comparisons▶ Pages 6-7Footprint Units▶ Page 8

For the Follow-Up Survey & Interview phase of the pilot, I have included a long list of footprint feedback sections on the Home screen, in addition to the footprint feedback on each of the Pathway, Footprint, Compare, and Plan tabs. These screens have a lot of buttons - try clicking on all of the buttons to see different views of your footprint.

I (Cressica) use my own footprint data to illustrate these feedback tools:

	Home Screen		Page	9
	 Plan for This Week Footprint So Far Footprint Progress by Phase Footprint Summary Compare Changes 			
∞	Pathway Diary Interactive footprint for diary day	► ys	Page	17
	Footprint Tab		Page	18
	Compare Tab		Page	20
Ŷ	Plan Tab		Page	22





Introduction to the 5 footprint categories

The MCF system attempts to track changes in carbon footprints over time, using consistent estimation methods from day to day. The objective is not to precisely measure the emissions impacts of any specific action, but rather to provide comparisons among the impacts of everyday actions and routines across time. The footprint estimates might change, as we refine the travel distance and emissions estimation.

Below are brief descriptions of the five categories that make up the total daily footprint. The "factor" in the simplified emissions equations below is the amount of CO2 equivalent caused per unit of distance, time, food, and dollars spent.

Automatically generated Pathway Diary:

Travel S Emissions = Travel method factor x distance

Travel emissions are estimated from the distance you travel, the type of transport, and the number of people you travel with (if by car/taxi/ride hailing). The embodied emissions of manufacturing vehicles is also distributed across the service life of the vehicle.

Away from Home

Emissions = Building construction + Building activity type factor x time spent

Based the time you stay in places other than your home, these emissions depend on how much energy each type of building uses to support its activities. A restaurant, for example, has different energy requirements than MIT buildings. The estimate accounts for how many people typically use each type of building.

Home A

Emissions = Baseline utility use + (Time at home x active utility use) + home construction

The day-to-day differences in your home energy use are approximated based on how much time you stay at home. Estimates come from averages for your type of home (e.g. a dorm) and/or utility bills (from the Entrance survey). More detailed estimates would require a lot more info about your living space and activities, so the home estimate does not vary much from day to day.

Reported Food/Spending Diary:

Food 🕑

Emissions = Food content factor x amount

The food footprint is based on the typical composition of the U.S. diet, which varies depending on the amount of meat and dairy a person consumes. The calculation methods are similar to the carbon foodprint described on Shrink That Footprint (http:// shrinkthatfootprint.com/food-carbon-footprint-diet). Some food consumption serves active travel needs (e.g. walking/biking). These active travel emissions are shown in both the travel and food categories, so that you can compare consistent estimates in each category across days and with other people, but they should not be double-counted in total emissions.

Spending 🗁

Emissions = Spending type factor x \$ spent

These emissions, embodied in goods and services, are additional to the Away category (which includes utilities only). These emissions also vary widely among types of products and services. To simplify the spending diary, however, the diary consolidates spending into three types with meaningful differences among their average embodied emissions: online shopping and delivery, in-store purchases, and services.





Footprint Goals, Budgets, and Comparison Groups: How can you tell if a carbon footprint is high or low? (Part 1)

Almost every screen has buttons for switching between groups of participants and benchmarks to which you can compare your footprint.

Goal

Goal = Baseline (Phase 1) average daily footprint reduced by 12% per year As an initial reference point, MCF automatically sets a goal of improving your footprint by 12% per year to align with the Paris Climate Goals. See Page 11 (Footprint Progress by Phase) for a description of how this goal is set.

Goals are usually shown as gray bars on top of the footprint displayed. The goals apply to both the Total footprint and each of the categories. The daily travel goal does not include long-distance train/bus/air travel. For most people, long-distance travel varies too much to be a useful benchmark for daily emissions.

What does a 12% footprint improvement have to do with the Paris Climate Goal?

Carbon-intensive societies need to reduce fossil fuel emissions, as much and as rapidly as possible. However, MCF starts with a global consensus on the speed and scale of emissions reduction: the Paris Climate Goal of a "2 degrees Celsius limit". MCF translates this goal to a quantified initial target for emissions reduction at the personal footprint level, to demonstrate the scale of necessary emissions reductions.

The Global Carbon Project (globalcarbonproject.org) has calculated that global emissions must decrease by about 10% each year from 2018 until 2030, in order to have a 66% chance of limiting the global average temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. Examples of how the Goal appears in MCF:



Goal shown as gray line

This emission reduction target underestimates the necessary reductions at the personal level in the U.S. It does not take into account that most people will not participate, nor does it adjust for the higher emissions of developed countries. The necessary percentage reduction at the global level might range from 5% to 15% or more per year, depending on many factors: delays in the start date of emissions reduction, revisions to the predicted carbon budget, different methods of allocating the budget to high- and low-emitting nations or populations, and other uncertainties such as changes in climate system response and human consumption. To achieve the 1.5-degree Celsius limit that the Paris Climate, the world would need to decrease emissions by 18% or more, year-on-year.





Footprint Goals, Budgets, and Comparison Groups: How can you tell if a carbon footprint is high or low? (Part 2)

Budget

Budget = (Goal - Day 1 footprint) + (Goal - Day 2 footprint) + ... + (Goal - Day N footprint) In this version of the app, I focus on the Paris Goal as a simplified and consistent benchmark, but I also provide the Budget for reference in many of the charts.

Budgets are a rolling tally of how much your footprint exceeds or is less than your Goal on confirmed days (unconfirmed days are excluded). Each day, your budget increases by your daily Paris Goal quota. If you end a day with a positive budget, you have kept your rolling average footprint below the Paris Goal on the confirmed days so far; if you have a negative budget, you have exceeded the daily Goal over time and will need to further reduce your footprint to make up for the past days.

Budgets are usually brown or gray bars, similar to the Goal. Budgets should be expressed in total kilograms or tons of CO₂e. Other units, such as the equivalent tons per year, do not make sense for understanding how much you need to change your footprint to stay within the budget. The app sometimes allows budgets to be displayed in tons per year; in this case, change to Kilograms before interpreting the budget.

Comparison Groups

I find it helpful to compare my footprint with a range of groups, such as other graduate students or people who live nearby me. Each study participant selected one of the three main groups - MIT, Harvard, and the general public - and each participant is now included in that group's footprint. In many of the charts, you can compare your footprint with these groups by using the buttons below.

In some places, more benchmark footprints are included: below, the 1.7t white bar shows the Climate Compatible Budget (CCB), which is an approximate remaining yearly carbon budget for every person from now until 2050. Other places include the global average footprint of 5 tons/year for comparison.

Pathway Diary	く Back	Mon, Apr 1, 2019	Done	Footprint So Far Goal Even	yone 5t 2t 2.5t
Scieen		tons/vear 🕨 vs. Paris goa		TRAVEL	+156%
				НОМЕ	+14%
	Paris goal	Budget Avg day MIT	Harvard	FOOD	+19% 🕒
	Reduce your for Paris Goals for 1.5°C Climate 1.7t/year).	ootprint by 1.6 tons/year more to ali • this day. Your footprint is still 2.5x h Compatible Budget (shown below: 4	gn with the ligher than the 4.7 kg/day or	SPENDING SPENDING	-26% 🗸
	🚹 TOTAL	1.7t 2.7t	4.2t	kg/day tons/year	social cost % vs goal
Click the gray button	to display	y the		Your Average MIT	Harvard Everyone
	10113			Comparison groups are shown as	
Comparison groups with the overlaid gray bars	will replac s	e the Goal in 🥏		background gray bars ('Everyone' shown h	iere)
				Click the orange buttons to change the – comparison data	
mobilecar	bonfoo	tprinting.org			7



Footprint Units: How does MCF express the size of carbon footprints?

Almost every screen also has buttons for switching between Units - different ways of displaying the carbon footprints.

Tons per year (tons/year, t/y, t)

Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO₂e) emissions is the standard unit throughout the MCF app. "Tons per year" can be interpreted as the equivalent yearly footprint, if the rest of the year were similar to the recorded diary days. For example, on the left, my "2.7t goal" is based on – my footprint for the 10 Phase 1 baseline days, multiplied by 365 days/10 days to get the equivalent total footprint for a full year. The "4.2t" of the red bar is that day's footprint, if the rest of the year were similar to that specific day.

Kilograms CO₂e (kg/day, kg)

Tons CO_2e is often too large a unit for displaying daily or weekly emissions as an understandable number. The kilograms CO_2e units option shows the total estimated emissions for the time span (usually per day or week) in a large enough number to be comprehensible, rather than an equivalent yearly footprint size.

For instance, my goal is 7 kg/day, but this value is easier to understand as an equivalent tons per year of 2.7t/y. It is also easier to compare the 2.7t/y value to other benchmarks, such as the Climate Compatible Budget of 1.7t/y.

Percent vs. goal (% vs. goal, %)

The "% vs. goal" helps to quickly assess how high or low your footprint is, relative to the benchmark of your past footprint.



Social Cost of Carbon (SCC, \$)

Click this button to change the Units

Social cost of this year of your emissions. This is the cost that we (everyone other than you) will pay in economic, health, and environmental damages, due to the climate impacts of your emissions (between \$40 and \$115 per ton). If you choose to drive the distance of \$1 of gas, that trip will cost at least 50 cents for everyone else due to climate impacts alone - not including air pollution, infrastructure, accidents, and other social costs.

Researchers frequently reassess these costs and the usefulness of the concept itself, so these values might not reflect current research.

Other ways of describing CO₂

The Footprint Summary and Footprint > Year present other perspectives on the size and impact of the yearly footprint, including the amount of ice melted, trees required to absorb your emissions, and cost of offsetting.





Home ► Plan for This Week

Footprint feedback

The Plan for This Week is the first section on the home screen, for direct access to your projected activities for the week and the resulting footprint. To see the Plan, your diary needs to include 7 consecutive confirmed days. If you don't see the Plan, go to the Pathways tab and confirm the consecutive diary days.





→ See Page 22 for how to set the Week Plan

Footprint overview

The Plan section starts with a summary of your overall footprint as of today, versus your Paris Goal (gray outline). My footprint is red because it far exceeds my goal, but it would be blue if it were within my goal.

The After Planned Week footprint gives an idea of what my footprint will be after the upcoming week. My current Plan will improve my average footprint by 1%, which gets me only slightly closer to my goal. I need to fill out the plan to do better

Display Units

Switch from tons per year to kilograms per day to see the total estimated emissions for each day.

Daily Plan summary

The Plan summarizes the Pathway Diary activities that most contribute to your daily carbon footprint. As you record your actual activities on these days, a new row will appear to compare the Plan vs. Recorded Diary Day.

As you fill in the Week Plan, each day's row will turn blue if its footprint is lower than the Goal, or pink if the footprint exceeds the Goal:



The KEY at the bottom of this section shows what is included in the daily summary. For instance, in my case:

- A Dairy day means I plan 4 meals/snacks that contain dairy (Dairy x4)
- A High food amount day is 3 Medium-size and one Small meal/snack The Spend \$ adds up all 3 Spending categories from the daily diary
- The Travel summary shows how many trips of each type I will take, e.g. on Wednesday I will take one walk and one long-distance trip.

Before you fill in the Week Plan on the Plan Tab, the MCF system automatically fills in these upcoming days with your most recently confirmed diary week. To see the Plan, your diary needs to include 7 consecutive confirmed days. In my case, the Plan for August 9 to 15 is filled with my schedule from my last consecutive week from earlier in 2020.

9



Home ► Footprint So Far



In the Footprint So Far pane, I attempt to summarize the trends in your daily footprint, by comparing your average footprint, best day, worst day, and other groups' values with a month of your daily footprints. It uses the same scale across all 3 of the charts, for direct comparison:

① The first chart shows the key stats for understanding your overall footprint. My average footprint is 5.2 tons/year for the diary days I have confirmed, but my footprint for all days is 4 tons/year because I did not travel much on many of the unconfirmed days. My worst day contained long-distance travel that resulted in an equivalent footprint of 45 tons per year, if I had traveled that much on every day for a year. In comparison, everyone using MCF together has an average footprint of 12 tons per year.

② Use these buttons to select a month to display on the chart below



3 Because my Worst Day has such a high footprint, I need to click the Zoom In button to be able to see the day values in April. I can then see how far each day's footprint is above (red alert icon) or below (blue check) my goal of 2.7 tons per year (gray bar on chart).

⁽⁴⁾Cick on any day to see the day's breakdown by category in the chart below.

(5) The chart for the Selected Day is zoomed in by one step, in order to see the differences among footprint categories. I now see that some of the categories exceed the Goal bar and some are below, and I can click on the "% vs. goal" to see by what percentage each category compares with the Goal bar. Click on "Your Average" to change the gray background bars from Everyone's footprint to your average footprint. The Timeline reminds me what I did that day. 10



Home ► Footprint Progress by Phase

Footprint feedback

This section splits up your footprint by study phase, rather than by calendar day, week, month, or year, as other sections do. The Phase 1 baseline phase is also the basis for your "Paris Goal" that appears throughout the app.







Home ► Footprint Summary (Part 1)

Footprint feedback

The Footprint Summary highlights a series of questions that MCF attempts to explore, by combining pieces of information from, and linking to, the other screens of the app. There are two main sections: ① interpreting your footprint based on personalized benchmarks, and ② comparing your footprint with other participants.

To see the following descriptions in the app, click the Show/Hide Descriptions button next to the section title.



Your total footprint for all 390 days so far is lower than the world average of 5 tons/year, which is very good! Confirm more days to lower this estimate, and adjust the Long-Distance Plan on the Plan Year screen.

① Interpreting your total footprint

- What is your footprint so far?
- The "best" approximation of my yearly footprint, 5.2 tons per year, is based on the average of my confirmed diary days.
- Compared with my Phase 1 baseline, I have substantially increased my footprint since April 7, 2019.
- That also means my footprint is far above the 12% Paris Goal and the Climate Compatible Budget.

Many of my confirmed days have higher emissions than my typical daily footprint, so my footprint for All Days (4.2t/y) is lower than for confirmed days only. This might not be the case for most participants. My long-distance plan, amounting to 0.1 tons for the rest of the year, is also included in this 4.2t/y footprint. See the Year Plan page for how to set this plan.

Footprint for confirmed days vs. all days

We calculate two footprint estimates:

Confirmed days

The first footprint includes only your 125 confirmed diary days (5.2 tons per year). The confirmed diary footprint is probably lower than your actual footprint, because the confirmed diary is a short time period that does not capture large expenses (e.g. cell service, health insurance) and long-distance trips. These high-emissions events make up a large percentage of most people's footprints. It does not include planned long-distance trave.

All days

The second footprint includes all 390 days for which you collected diary data (4.2 tons per year). This footprint might be higher than your actual footprint, because we use conservative estimates for the unconfirmed diaries, and also because these diaries might capture more long-distance travel.

Compare your footprint with these benchmarks:

Your goal, which is a 12% decrease from your Phase 1 baseline footprint, to align with the Paris Goals of reducing emissions 5%-12% per year and halving emissions by 2030.

Climate Compatible Budget (CCB)

The CCB is an alternative way of looking at the remaining global carbon budget. Instead of reducing emissions from year to year like the above Goal, the CCB spreads the entire remaining budget across every person from now until 2050. The resulting budget is 1.7 tons per person per year, to have a 66% chance of staying below the 1.5°C global heating limit.





Home ► Footprint Summary (Part 2)

Footprint feedback



The chart above shows how your average footprint (confirmed days only) has changed since the beginning of the study. This is a rolling average, so it differs from the average footprint per phase in the Footprint Progress by Phase section. Gray days are your baseline days, before your goal is set. Blue days are lower than your goal (good), and red are higher (bad). This chart does not include your long-distance plan.

What scale of ecological impacts will this footprint cause?

	•		
A	II days	Social cost of this year of	your emissions.
9	\$329	This is the cost that othe economic, health, and er damages, due to the clin your emissions (between ton).	r people will pay in wironmental nate impacts of \$40 and \$115 per
۲	2757	tons of ice melted, addin of water to oceans	ig 729,590 gallons
*	193	between 85 and 193 tree absorb your emissions wi	es needed to ithin this year
Whi foor	ich actions tprint?	have added the m	ost to your
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Here, I can quickly see that my footprint stayed low until I traveled long-distance in August 2019, and I have only slowly improved since then. I will need to confirm more low-carbon days to better reflect my typical activities in my current average footprint.

▶ What scale of ecological impacts will this footprint cause?

These impacts are based on my footprint for all days, 4.1t/y. Even though that footprint is similar to the global average, the 3,000 tons of melted ice (much less planting 200 trees a year) already seems like an extremely large number.

► Which actions have added the most to your footprint?

This section higlights the largest components of my footprint, starting with the green bar that is Vegetables/Grains/Etc. I can also see that even though I only made a few long-distance train trips, these are the second most dominant part of my footprint.

My avoided emissions list is also a useful guide for which actions to continue in the future. These include working at home instead of on campus, eating vegan, composting, and biking. If I didn't do these actions as much as possible, my footprint would be over 2 tons - or 40%-50% - higher.





Home ► Footprint Summary (Part 3)

Footprint feedback



⁽²⁾ Comparing your carbon footprint with others

These rankings link to the Compare & Contribute screens, where I will be able to see the range of other participants' footprints. Here I can see that my increased footprint, above the original baseline, has resulted in nearly 1 ton (0.85 tons) of excess emissions - just within my 125 confirmed days - and most likely even more excess emission for the entire year.

► How much has each group contributed to emissions savings or excess emissions?

One of the objectives of MCF is to improve group footprints overall, by 'contributing' our emissions savings to each of our groups.

So far, all groups have caused excess emissions above their baselines. Other DUSP participants contributed to both emissions savings and excess emissions - but if my emissions were not part of the DUSP community group, DUSP might have been the only group to achieve emissions savings.

▶ How does your footprint compare with everyone else's?

The previous 'contributions' section compares increases and decreases of emissions, but this section compares total footprints among groups. My confirmed footprint is half of my peers', even though I failed to keep it below my personalized goal. I can view these as a bar or bubble chart, but the bubble chart is difficult to read.

► How does your progress toward reducing emissions compare with others?

Here we return to comparing our improvements (or lack thereof) since the baseline diary phase. The goal for everyone is to improve their footprints by 12%, but I can see on this chart that no group has achieved an improvement, and my footprint has become even worse than all of my groups (MIT, DUSP) and reference groups (Harvard).





Home ► Footprint Summary (Part 4)

Footprint feedback



For Compare by Group, you can select each footprint category and see how you rank against the groups in that category. My total footprint is half that of my comparison groups, but my longdistance travel footprint is only slightly less than DUSP's - but half that of Harvard.

How does your footprint compare by category?

For Compare by Category, use the same charts as the daily footprint in the Pathway Diary to compare your total footprint with MIT, Harvard, and benchmark footprints.





Here I can compare the frequency of actions that underlie our footprints. For instance, my car travel is substantially lower than other groups', but I don't go as far by walking/biking either. Also, DUSP consumes much less meat than other groups, and my nearly-vegan food consumption has contributed to DUSP's higher meat-free meal count.



Home ► Compare Changes by Day/Week/Month

Footprint feedback

Home ▶ **Compare Changes**

Footprint Tab ► DAILY

The Home screen only shows the last 14 rows of the chart - the past 14 days. Click on See All to see all your data.



Here you can see all your recorded diary days, aggregated by day, week or month. Both the carbon footprint and key activities are displayedd. Some of the comparison groups might not work (like Harvard - sorry).

Click on each day's bar to see what you did that day (timeline):





The Compare Changes (Footprint by Day/Week/ Month) section consolidates many of the carbon footprint dimensions estimated by MCF.

Use this section and the Footprint ► Daily screen to explore variations in your footprint, and see what activities are driving the differences in your carbon footprint over time. By clicking the buttons and the chart bars, you can (fairly) quickly switch between different time spans, categories, and comparisons with other groups.







TIME SPAN:

2019







Pathway Diary Interactive Footprint

Footprint feedback

As you confirm the pathway diary for each day, you will immediately see the effect of each activity on the carbon footprint.



* EXCLUDE FOOD & TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

Pathway Diary

Home 0.3mi

Fat/drink. Stud

156 🏫 🏠 🏥 🏙 🛙 🖬

Yf 🛍 🖮 📜 🚢 苗 👫 👬 ⊘







Click the menus for units (red below) and comparison groups (gray below, set to Paris Goals) to understand the size of your footprint relative to your goal and to other participants.







Large Map 🔟

Mar 30 4:21 PM



Footprint Tab ► YEAR

The first Footprint screen is based on responses to the Entrance Survey.

The **TOTAL** pane compares your daily diary so far with your footprint for the last year, which is based on your responses in the entrance survey. In my case, last year's footprint is 5.4 tons.

The footprint estimates below are based on your responses in the Entrance Survey Total footprint by year Metric Tons CO2e My footprint this year (pathway diary + long-dist trip plan) 3.5 5.4 My footprint last year (entrance survey) My goal aligned with 5 Paris Accord for this year 14 MIT average per person HARVARD average per 14 person 16 U.S. average per person 5 GLOBAL average Budget per person for 4 2°C warming limit Budget per person for 1.5°C warming limit 1.7 The Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) \$417 for your emissions (between \$40 and \$115 per ton) tons (or cubic meters) of glacier ice will melt due to your yearly 3499 between 108 and 245 trees 245 needed to absorb this amount of CO2 this year

\$59 the cost of purchasing offsets for this year of emissions

0

mobilecarbonfootprinting.org

The **COMPARE** pane shows your footprint across the 5 main categories. Change the units to see different ways of describing the size of the footprint. Scroll down to see your footprint categories compared with MIT and Harvard participants.



Comparison (based on entrance survey)

GHG by category (in units of carbon dioxide equivalent), including long-distance travel by air/ train/bus (LONG) versus local travel (LOCAL), energy used during time away from home (AWAY) and at home (HOME), and embodied emissions in food & spending



The **DETAILS** pane shows all of the categories that MCF estimates. It also shows how much you have avoided due to lowercarbon activities.





Footprint Tab

The Footprint tab contains a number of views into your footprint estimates.

► TOTAL

This screen shows your cumulative footprint for the diary days you have confirmed so far, across all tracked categories. Compare the footprint categories with the Avoided Emissions categories. Try changing the units.

DAILY

The Daily screen shows the same footprint exploration tool as the Compare Changes on the Home screen. See Page 16 for a description of this tool.

► TIMELINE

This screen displays a a timeline of the carbon footprint of each activity you have recorded in the Pathway Diary. Pink bars are estimates for unconfirmed activities. Select each month to view those days.



The Category screen gives a detailed, dayby-day comparison of all the footprint categories that MCF estimates per day.

	TOTAL			CATI
Total footprint by category Based on Pathway Diary since Feb 4th, 2019 The footprint below includes 400 diary days, both confirmed and unconfirmed. Confirm more diary days to get				
Sort Total kg Scroll to the	by category Tons/yea e right to see ch	r) (Social co art>	ort by total	
Travel 0 tons/y 4 0 tons/y 7 0 tons/y 6 0 tons/y 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0.4 tons/y kr travel waik waik wolie travel wolie travel mbodied emissi Emissions 0.3 tons/y El wolied home er wolied home er wolied home er	0.8 tr y Car (private, ling services () ions of vehicle car use, due t due to transit due to transit ectricity etc. to c./heat/cooling missions due t use away from	Disky Long-dis not Uber/Lyft/ Jber/Lyft) 3. I ons/y A walking/bikin use g (incl. office sp g (incl. office sp g (incl. office sp g (incl. office sp g o spending tim home. due to the	tanc (axi) voic g hor pace e ou
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Compare & Contribute Tab (Part 1)

These screens show how your footprint contributes to your groups, and how each participant's footprint compares to others'. To make these comparisons, MCF ranks both (a) the total footprint value and (b) the percent improvement that each participant and group has achieved. Blue checkmarks appear next to participants who have improved footprints by 12% to align with the Paris Climate Goals, or whose footprints are lower than the global average of 5 tons per year. These rankings update each time a participant confirms a diary day. Click the Refresh button to see the most recent rankings.

► CONTRIBUTE TO GROUP

Includes confirmed days (after baseline) + all travel

Groups are ranked by how much each has increased or decreased its footprint since the baseline diary phase ended. This percent change of each group's emissions is a metric for tracking if we are making a meaningful reduction in emissions overall.

If you have reduced your footprint, then you have also contributed to reducing your groups' footprints. Or, in my case, I increased my groups' footprints.

► COMPARE GROUPS

Includes all confirmed days + all travel

This list shows how each of your groups is performing compared to all other groups. You can see which of your groups are averaging a higher or lower footprint than your own.

In my case, my 5t/y footprint is lower than all of the groups to which I belong. Even though I have increased my footprint to 145% above my baseline, I have helped to lower the average footprint of each of my groups.







Compare & Contribute Tab (Part 2)

How can I improve my footprint in these rankings?

(1) Confirm more Pathway Diary days to register the contribution from those days. Unconfirmed days also tend to have conservative emissions estimates, so confirming more days might lower your footprint.

(2) Look at which actions have the highest footprints on the Footprint screens, and which actions have a meaningful impact on the Plan Week/Year screens (e.g. replacing car trips, beef, and long episodes away from home).

► COMPARE FOOTPRINT

Includes all days + all travel

This screen shows your overall (total) diary footprint compared with everyone else.

Improve your ranking by confirming more diary days. Click on the Category buttons to see how you compare within each category (overall footprints are shown as outlines, to compare with the category's footprint). The food category is shown below.

COMPARE IMPROVEMENT

Includes confirmed days (after baseline) + local travel Use the Compare Improvements screen to see if you are decreasing your footprint faster than other participants. Or not, in my case.

This list ranks participants by how much their footprints have improved, compared to their baseline diary days (Phase 1). Only local travel is included, to make the comparison across participants' daily activities more consistent--and because it would be too easy to improve after a plane trip.

Compare & Contribute Today C (i)









Completing the Week Plan Pilot

(1)

Complete the Follow-Up Survey for the original MCF pilot

See Pages 2-3 for these steps. The Week Plan pilot will be available in the Study Progress after you complete Phases 1 & 2.

(2)Fill out the Week Plan completely in one day

The instructions for filling out the Week Plan start on the following page. To get to the Week Plan screen, click on the Plan tab, Week Plan button in Study Progress, or the Edit button in Plan for This Week.

Plan for This Week See all >

After completing the rest of the plan on (not set), your average footprint will decrease by 1%. It will then be 94% greater than your goal of 2.7 tons per year.

To see suggestions and make a plan to reduce your footprint, click the 'Set Your Weekly Plan' or Edit button above, or click the days below, to finish the plan for: Aug 9, Aug 10, Aug 11, Aug 12, Aug 13, Aug 14, Aug 15

2h

(b)

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int estimates only include confirmed days since Feb 13th e Footprint Progress by Phase section below for more info. O3t/y Nop

> al Diary mee 🖶 Local transit 🚔 Car/Uber 🕂 Long-distanc

> > Pork/chick/fish

9h

 Sec
 Sec</th

Current footprint: 5.2 t/y So far, your footprint exceeds your goal of 2.7 tons per year by 96%.

After planned week: 5.2 t/v

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• Tue 🕐 🔍 🕄

• Wed () ()

Sat Aug 15

! Mon

+ Thu Aug 13

GOAL: 2.7 t/y

5.2 t/y

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goal No diary yet



Use MCF to record and confirm the 7 diary days covered by the Week Plan

See how your recorded activities and footprint compare with your planned activities each day.



home Pathways Footprint Compare





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Walk/ Local Private # in Uber/ # in Long-bike transit car Car taxi Uber dist.

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🔶 Fri

Suggeste d for goal

Previous Thu diary (12/5/19)

Prev. Thu tim

(12/5/19)

Aug 14

Sat Aug 15

Scroll right to see all fields >>

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-9%

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Other places

1.9

2*

9h 0h \$0

\$ 80

* Not food or travel

Beet/lamb x1 Pork/chick/fish x2 Dairy x4

Pork/chick x2 Dairy x4

ြို္င္ရဲ Dairy x4

Vegan x4

Vegan (no dairy/meat)

Pork/chick/tish x2 Dairy x4

Pork/chick/fish

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Other

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Outdo Spend

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Pliī 🏦

MIT Other

places

Pointers:

(1) Just start trying it out. The Week Plan might appear complicated, but it follows the same idea as the Pathway Diary: turn all the buttons and days from pink to blue. Try clicking on every component to see its effect on the daily and weekly footprint - you can edit all of the values later.

(2) Fill out the whole plan in one session. To set the Week Plan for the study week, the Plan itself must be fully filled in on one day - not over the course of several days, although you can modify future days at any time. In other words, the labels of all 7 days on the Week Plan must turn blue. When your plan is completea, the message at the top of the Plan form will then switch from "Plan Incomplete" ^{Plan incomplete} to a blue "Plan Complete". If you do not complete the full week plan, the Plan for This Week (on the Home screen) will keep shifting forward in time.

(3) The Week Plan screen always shows the next 7 days. To see the plans set for past days, go to the Past Weeks screen. To see your progress on your completed Plan, see Home > Plan for This Week.

How to fill in the Week Plan:

OOOO

Select one set of meal sizes:

High (S-M-IVI-IVI

Medium

High () () () () ()

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Medium (S-S-M-M) Medium (S-S-M-M) Low (S-S-M-M)

۲

 \bigcirc Select the units that make more sense to you. I use the "% vs. goal" so I can guickly see how much I need to improve each day's footprint.

2 Watch the Total vs. Goal bar: it will turn blue when your goal is met. Each time you change an action in the form below, the text below the Total bar updates with the amount that action increases/decreases your footprint for the week. Note that this Total bar is next week's estimated footprint, whereas the Current Footprint and Footprint After the Plan on the Home screen are your rolling averages for all confirmed days so far.

3 Try out the "whole week" actions - car, green electricity, compost, and recycling - to see how much they affect your total footprint. These actions are just for reference and won't be included in the Week Plan going forward, to simplify the plan.

> (4) In "Plan Actions for each day of the week," scroll both vertically and horizontally to see the entire form.

5 Open each day's form by clicking on the date button (e.g. Thu Aug 13). To move to the next day, click on the up (\uparrow Wed) or down $(\mathbf{\psi} \operatorname{Fri})$ buttons. These buttons will turn blue when that day's form is complete.

6 The first row of each day is the Plan form, followed by two rows of reference info to assist with filling out the form:

Suggested for goal: to get the suggestions, the MCF system starts with the previous Thursday diary day (in my case, December 5), and suggests alternative trip types, time use, and food to align more closely with the Goal. Previous diary and timeline: The summary of this day of the week's last confirmed activities.

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Plan Tab ► WEEK PLAN (Part 2)



The 3 rows in each day's form below correspond to 3 bar rows in the chart above:

- the previous day's footprint, corresponding to the trips/time use/food/spending activities shown below the day's form
- the footprint of the suggested activities
- the footprint of the planned day. Watch the footprint respond as you change the planned number of trips, hours away from home, food, and spending
- ⑧ In the day's Plan form:

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Select one set of

High (S-M-M-M)

meal sizes

Medium

High

- The form's default values are the previous confirmed day's values.
- If the default value is zero, then that part of the form is "confirmed" by default. If the value starts as zero, click on the + sign to enter the number of each new action you intend to do on this day. For example, on my previous Thursday, I took 2 car trips. But on the next Thursday, I plan to take 2 walking trips instead, so I changed the 0 value to 2 trips.
- If the default value is not zero, that form control will be pink. Click on each of the pink form controls to change the values and "confirm" that action. The previous page shows my form, before I started to confirm it, when the Private Car trip value was pink.
- Start with the trips you plan to make via walk/bike run, transit, private car, Uber/taxi, and long-distance bus/train/plane. If you plan a car/Uber trip, also enter the number of people in the vehicle. The reference distance of the trips appears below the # of trips bubble. This trip distance comes from your previous week's average trip length per travel method. It is just used to approximate the carbon footprint for your planned trips, so that you do not need to calculate the distance you will travel.
- Continue to fill out the rest of the form: hours to spend at MIT, in other buildings, and outdoors; the amount you will spend across all spending categories; and the food contents and meal sizes.

9 When you have completed that day's form, the border will turn blue. Move to the next day by clicking the down arrow button.

When you return to the Home screen, the Plan for Next Week will update to the plan

you just filled out:

0	Wed Aug 12	0	1 b 4	* * 🔵	2t
0	Thu Aug 13	(V)	2h	* * 🔵	2t

To complete the Week Plan pilot, continue to record and confirm the diary days shown in the Study Progress.



timeline (12/5/19)



Plan Tab ► YEAR PLAN Footprint feedback

The Year Plan tool allows you to test out how your activities (recorded in the Entrance Survey) contribute to your yearly footprint, and which changes in activities could align your footprint with an emissions reduction goal for the next year.

This footprint is based only on the Entrance Survey responses, separate from the Pathway Diary.

Long-Distance Travel Plan

However, to account for infrequent long-distance travel plans that might increase this year's travel footprint, the Travel screen allows you to enter how many upcoming long-distance trips you have planned for the calendar year. This long-distance travel footprint is added to the Footprint for All Days in Home



DISPLAY MENU:

To start, the Year Plan shows the Paris Goal values on the comparison (white) bars. This goal is a 12% reduction from last year's footprint.

Click on Display ► vs. Paris Goal (the Compare dropdown menu), then select Last Year to see how the new plan compares with your responses from last year.

FOOTPRINT CATEGORIES:

Click on each category to modify each part of the yearly plan.

In my case, I need to lower monthly spending by \$10 in each category to reduce my spending footprint to 0.7t/y, to be in accordance with the Paris Goal.



trip questions below. The first set (trips that will happen between now and the end of this calendar year) are added this year's total footprint on the Home Screen. The second set is for planning your footprint for the next 12 months.







Products purchased online (e.g. Amazon - NOT FOOD)

Last year: \$40 per month Next year: \$30 per month

Pathways

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Products purchased in stores (electronics, household goods, personal care, clothing, etc -NOT FOOD) Last year: \$50 per month Next year: \$40 per month Services (including entertainment, memberships, personal care, internet/phone, healthcare etc - DO

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Footprint

09

Compare



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Start tracking my footprint

If you are a new to MCF, start with these steps. Before using the Pathway Diary, search for an e-mail from mobilecarbonfootprinting@gmail.com, and use the provided link to confirm your e-mail address.



Complete the Entrance Survey

Complete this survey after signing up, or open it by clicking on the Entrance Survey button on the Home screen. MCF uses this survey info to calculate several components of your footprint. Some parts of the survey might be difficult to read on small phone screens.

4:12 → ♥ ● ♦ Back Entrance Survey Survey intro (0/19) Progress: 100% This survey will take about 30 minutes. Make sure to click SUBMIT FINAL SURVEY on the last page. In the final section of this survey, we will ask you to enter your home electricity/gas bill amount for the latest month (e.g. February 2019), if your utility bills are not included in your rent.

You can fill out the rest of the survey now, then find your home utility bills and come back later to submit the bill amounts. This utility bill is important for estimating your carbon footprint, so we are grateful for your accurate response.

You can come back to the survey at any time in the next 3 days to finish it.

Before starting this survey, please review the Consent to Participate info that we sent by email, or at www.mobilecarbonfootprinting.org/ privacy.html . If you decide not to participate, you may continue using the daily diary (you will not be able to view the carbon footprinting feedback for yourself and other participants), or you may uninstall the app.

Your participation and honest responses are valuable to our study, and your responses will be kept completely private and anonymous.

2

Follow the steps in Study Progress

In Phase 1 (baseline diary collection), this screen shows only the diary days necessary for collecting a sufficient baseline for footprint estimation. Click on each diary day when it turns pink. Click on the Pathways Tab to see all other calendar days.



3

Fill in the Pathway Diary for Phase 1

See the next page for instructions.

4

Look at the Footprint Feedback while completing Phase 2

Record 3 more days while reviewing the Footprint Feedback (see info starting on Page 2).

More info on the phases of MCF:



e. Follow-up survey (20 minutes)

(5)

Start Phase 3 by filling in the Week Plan See Page 22 for

how to fill in the Week Plan.



Pathway Diary Instructions

Review how to confirm the Pathway Diary below, and see the following pages for illustrations of the diary confirmation process. This guide is also available on the Pathway Diary screen in the MCF app, and the blue screens below appear in the Introduction to the App.

Pathways are diaries of daily actions that are important for your carbon footprint.

First, select a day using the Calendar. Red dots mark diary days that you need to fill in.

Then, for each day, record the following actions. To minimize the info that you need to input, we have limited this diary to the most relevant info for understanding daily differences in your carbon footprint.

The goal: turn all of the diary entries from pink to blue.

Spending (\$)

- Products purchased online (delivery orders)
- Products purchased in stores (like clothing and other products), excluding food
- Spending on services (like entertainment, memberships, phone/ internet, personal care, etc), excluding food and home utilities

Food

The carbon footprint of a meal is related to its contents and size. The diary includes Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), Dinner (D), and any other meals and snacks (O).

Meal Contents

The following categories of food contents correspond to the key differences in daily carbon footprints. For each meal, select the foods that the meal contains:

Vegan (no meat nor dairy)

- Dairy (cheese, milk, eggs)
- Poultry, fish, or pork
- Beef, lamb, or other meat

Meal size

Record the size of your meals for this day. Include additional snacks and beverages in the size of the Other meal. We only use this info to more accurately calculate your food carbon footprint. Only you can view the calorie values. The approximate total calories for the day is displayed. Consider that people in the U.S. typically underestimate their calorie intake by ~25% on average.

You did not eat this meal

- Up to 400 calories (e.g. oatmeal and fruit, or a Clover breakfast sandwich)
- 400-700 calories (e.g. a cheeseburger, or a Clover Chickpea Fritter sandwich)
- Greater than 700 calories (e.g. a cheeseburger and fries)

PATHWAY DIARY: Diary of Places and Traveling

We have limited this diary to the most relevant info for understanding differences in emissions, among travel methods and building types.

- First, get oriented by clicking on the Map Marker icon (or the sidebar or location name) to see a map of this diary entry. For travel entries, the distance is shown in miles (mi).
- On the right side of the screen, see the duration and start time of this diary entry. You do not need to confirm or revise the time or distance info.
- If a cliary entry does not make sense (e.g. if the time or place appears to be incorrect, or if a trip you made during that time frame appears to be missing), flag this entry to help us improve our automated diary creation, by clicking on the (!) icon on the right side of the screen.

For each diary entry, select the primary place or way you traveled for that time frame. The entry will turn blue when it is complete.

Travel or Outdoor Exercise: click on this icon, then select the primary travel method or outdoor activity/exercise (e.g. walking, running) from the options that appear below. Click on each of the options to see its description. If your travel method is a private or for-

hire car, then enter the total number of passengers using the + or - buttons that will appear below the travel options.

- Your home
- Another person's home or residential place
- Outdoor activity (e.g. a park or street)
- Other indoor places: when you click on this icon, a window will appear with a list of place options from Google. Select the correct place name from the list.

If you do not see the place name, then drag the map to your location and click 'Select this location'.

MIT: when you click this icon, a window will appear with a list of MIT Buildings. Select the MIT building by name from the list.

Activities at home and away

- Social activities in person
- Entertainment or leisure (not exercise), like watching TV/film or reading
- 📌 Exercise, sports, recreation
- Caring for or accompanying others, including children, adults, or pets
- None of these activities

Key points for confirming the pathway diary

For us to provide meaningful feedback about your carbon footprint, we ask you to confirm the diary info as accurately and as honestly as possible. Your responses will be confidential.

In particular, try to select the most appropriate place name or transportation type for each pathway episode, considering the following:

 Places away from home: each type of destination energy demands, so selecting the Place Name is important for importing the toptimit estimate study, we will show you the differences among the footprints of campus buildings

 These transport options have meaningful differences in emissions:

 Image: Car (private vehicle, e.g. owned by self/family/ friends) vs.

 Tox vs.

 Ride-hailing service (Uber/Lyft/etc)

 Also note that these transit options have important differences:

 Subway/light rail (not commuter rail)

 Local Bus (not long-distance bus)

 Long-distance bus/cocah, jong-distance rail (e.g. Antrak) or Commuter Rail



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Pathways Tab: Pathway Diary Calendar & Diary Day (Part 1)

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Click on an unconfirmed diary day on the Pathway Diary screen (or a confirmed day, to edit it)

When a diary day is being sent to the MCF server, the day appears as a gray dot.



Fill out Spending & Food

Each element will turn blue when the diary is complete. Note: For the Other Food selection, enter your total snacks/drinks/other food. Most people consume at least 300 calories of food/drinks that are not accounted for in the Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner diary.







3

For each entry in the Pathway Diary, select the type of place or travel. See next page for Away/MIT place types.

For places, also select the activities you did there. For travel, select your travel method and, if it's a car or Uber, how many people were in the vehicle.

When the diary is complete, all entries and the Done button will turn blue.

<	Back Sat, May 18, 2019	Done
F	Pathway Diary	Large Map 🛄
⊘ 1	Home Omi	May 15 2:12 PM 77 hr 18 min
	物合作。1117	!
	🎁 🛄 🏥 📜 🚢 🗂 👘 🛊 🤇 Eat/drink, Study/edu	3
	This episode lasts overnight, on Wed, May 15th until 7:31pr 18th	from 2:12pm m on Sat, May
0	Walking 0.5mi	7:31 PM 12 min
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Pathways Tab: Pathway Diary Day (Part 2): AWAY/MIT Entries

① Click on the Map buttons

Before selecting the diary entry type, you can orient yourself on the Map by clicking the diary entry's sidebar OR the Large Map button.





Click Away or MIT to see the pop-up selection screen

For MIT, select the building in the pop-up screen.

For Away, select the name of the store/establishment you were inside.



3

Search for the name of the place, if you don't see it in the Nearby Places list

 Search for the exact name and location to find the correct place. In this case, I had to enter "Star Market Som" before the Somerville store appeared in the results. Read the additional on-screen instructions.

Click USE THIS PLACE to complete the selection, or CLOSE to return to the diary.



mobilecarbonfootprinting.org

Guides & Account Pages

Open the Guide Screen by clicking on the compass icon \oslash at the top of the Home screen. The in-app guides introduce the basic objectives and footprinting methods used in the app.

At the bottom of the screen, use the SIGN OUT button to return to the login screen, renew your credentials, and download your most recent data.





App Permissions Page

MCF uses the smartphone's location and activity sensor data to automatically create the Pathway Diaries. Your phone needs to grant MCF permissions to use these sensors "ALWAYS", in order for the MCF app to load and operate.

In new versions of the iPhone, granting permission to MCF is a two-step process: first, select Allow While Using App. Then lock and unlock your phone, and select CHANGE TO ALWAYS ALLOW to complete the permissions process. If you don't see the CHANGE TO ALWAYS ALLOW popup, click Open Settings and manually select the ALWAYS ALLOW option in Settings -> MCF -> Location permissions.

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For more info on MCF's use of sensors, see the Privacy Policy on the following page and the Introduction to the App:

We have set up the Mobile Carbon Footprinting system to protect your privacy and to secure your data. The researchers can only review anonymized location data; all data processing is automated.

Also, we do not use nor send data to any external service (e.g. we do not use Google Analytics nor any other tracking service). MCF only sends map requests to Google Maps/ Places.

More info

To ensure privacy, only one researcher (Cressica Brazier) has access to the secure server on which the pathway data are stored, and I will never look at that pathway data in conjunction with your identity. Only you, the participant, will be able to view your own pathway data via the app.

We will anonymize the pathway data before conducting analysis, and all information will be appropriately anonymized and aggregated when published.

Other trained investigators will have access to the participant's contact information for communication purposes only. During the carbon footprint feedback phase of the study, other participants will only be able to view your aggregated emissions summaries and simple statements about activities (e.g. the emissions that a participant saved due to walking instead of driving for 2 miles'), labeled with the user's Display Name.

However, there is always a risk that your account could be compromised, e.g. if a third party obtains your password.

PREVIOUS





Frequently Asked Questions & MCF Project Info

FAQ https://www.mobilecarbonfootprinting.org/faq.html

Privacy Policy https://mobilecarbonfootprinting.org/privacy.html

2019 MIT/Harvard Pilot Info & Consent to Participate

https://mobilecarbonfootprinting.org/couhes_consenttoparticipate_mcf.pdf

Mobile Carbon Footprinting website

https://www.mobilecarbonfootprinting.org

Apple App Store link

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mobile-carbon-footprinting/id1340559555?mt=8

Google Play Store link

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.mcf.mcfmobileapp

Contact

J. Cressica Brazier prepared this guide for the Mobile Carbon Footprinting project. Feel free to send comments and questions to cressica@mit.edu

