

# Carbon footprint

## Level

Upper-intermediate / Advanced

## Tasks

Deciding which words form collocations with the word 'carbon'  
 Scanning an article for expressions with the word 'carbon'  
 Reading an article about 'carbon footprints'  
 Identifying words and expressions in the article from their definitions  
 Discussing ways a company can reduce its 'carbon footprint'

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the title of the lesson on the board and ask students to see if they can guess the meaning. (Teacher's note: a 'carbon footprint' is a representation of the effect a person, or company, has on the climate in terms of the total amount of greenhouse gases he or she produces, measured in units of carbon dioxide). Hand out the worksheet and ask students to identify other collocations and check their meaning.

### Answers

*carbon emissions / dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) / copy / paper / tax / footprint*

(Teacher's note: carbon tax is a tax on vehicles or factories which produce a lot of carbon emissions)

- 2 Ask students to scan the article and underline expressions with the word 'carbon'.

### Answers

*Paragraph 1: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions / carbon dioxide / carbon neutralise / carbon rights*

*Paragraph 2: carbon footprint (x2) / carbon dioxide (x2)*

*Paragraph 3: carbon footprint (x2)*

- 3 Ask students to read the whole article. Ask follow-up questions such as: Do you think buying trees helps?
- 4 Ask students to read the definitions and find the words and expressions in the article.

### Answers

*(a) to absorb (b) to neutralise (c) climate*

*(d) greenhouse gases (e) to offset*

- 5 Ask students to discuss the list in small groups. Each group then select three which they feel could be introduced in their company. Groups report and justify their choices to the class. Finally, provide any useful language feedback.

## Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

[http://www.carbonfootprint.com/green\\_energy.html](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/green_energy.html)

<http://www.nrel.gov/>

<http://www.safeclimate.net/understanding/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\\_footprint](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_footprint)