

What is the Ecological Footprint?

What is a footprint?

The **Ecological Footprint** is a resource accounting tool.

- It measures how much biologically productive land and sea is used by a given population or activity
- and it compares this to how much land and sea is available
- productive land and sea areas support human demands for food, fiber, timber, energy, and space for infrastructure
- these areas also absorb the waste products from the human economy

What does the Ecological Footprint measure?

- The Ecological Footprint answers a specific research question: how much of the biological capacity of the planet is demanded by a given human activity or population?
- To answer this question, the Ecological Footprint measures the amount of biologically productive land and water area an individual, a city, a country, a region, or all of humanity uses to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates with today's technology and resource management practices.

What can Ecological Footprint Analysis tell us about the future of the planet? Are we all doomed?

- The Ecological Footprint highlights the reality of ecological scarcity, which can be disconcerting and frightening information.

What are you going to do to reduce your ecological footprint?

What can Montreal do to reduce its ecological footprint?

