

# CLIMATE CHANGE + SOURCE TO SEA CLEANUP

## WHAT IS CARBON CONSCIOUSNESS?

An awareness of how our actions impact the amount of carbon being emitted (or, entering) the atmosphere

## WHAT IS A CARBON FOOTPRINT?

The total carbon emissions we contribute to over time



Connecticut River  
Conservancy

[www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup)

As climate change continues to impact the way our local environment exists and works, we think it's really important to help each other develop a sense of carbon consciousness and how that connects us to the changing climate.

**Almost every decision we make has a carbon emission that goes along with it and understanding our options to reduce our carbon footprint on a personal level can make all the difference.**

The Connecticut River Conservancy has begun to incorporate this way of thinking into how we do everything that we do by working to calculate and track our collective carbon footprint. This work will allow us to track our progress towards reducing the carbon footprint of our activities, protecting the Connecticut River and its surrounding communities along the way.

The Connecticut River Conservancy continues to take steps to better understand our carbon emissions and how we can reduce them. Our annual Source to Sea Cleanup plays a significant role in our annual carbon footprint, so thinking about the emissions related to the event is essential.

**We need your help to accomplish this!**



**The transportation of volunteers to and from their cleanup sites results in the bulk of Source to Sea Cleanup-related carbon emissions.**

In order to calculate the carbon footprint of our annual Cleanup, we need to attempt the difficult task of estimating how far volunteers are travelling and in how many vehicles.

While we will be working this into our cleanup in future years, this year – we ask cleanup group leaders and volunteers to take a moment to count how many cars transported volunteers to your cleanup this year, and be mindful of how far you all travelled to be there.



**The materials used in our cleanups and how the trash we collect get disposed of is also a significant contributor to the carbon footprint of the Source to Sea Cleanup.**

We know that manufacturing plastic goods, especially ones designed for single-use, emit a lot of carbon and create a lot of problems for the environment – not to mention how much we hate to see them wind up back in the environment as litter.

Recycling materials and using recycled or re-purposed things greatly reduce the carbon-emission-heavy processes it takes to extract raw materials and make new products.

**TIPS FOR A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY CLEANUP**



**DRIVE LESS**

- cleanup close to home
- walk/bike/chair/swim, if possible

**SHARE THE RIDE**

- carpool when you can
- try a local bus, or renting a bus for larger groups

**PAY IT FORWARD**

- sort what you find and recycle everything you can

**CHOOSE TO RE-USE**

- replace single-use plastic bags and gloves with re-usable or re-purposed ones

**REPEAT**

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We encourage all of our Source to Sea volunteers to consider limiting the transportation footprint of their cleanup and taking other steps for a climate-friendly cleanup!

# REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF YOUR SOURCE TO SEA CLEANUP



**Interested in reducing the carbon footprint of your cleanup?**

**Consider the following questions:**

## **HOW MANY CARS WILL COME TO YOUR CLEANUP?**

The transportation of our volunteers to and from their cleanup sites results in the bulk of cleanup-related carbon emissions.

## **HOW FAR WILL YOUR VOLUNTEERS DRIVE?**

Your best guess, in miles, is very helpful. More miles on the road = more carbon emitted in the air.

## **HOW MANY CARS ARE TAKING TRASH OFFSITE?**

When possible, limit the number of cars transporting trash after your cleanup.

## **HOW FAR WILL VOLUNTEERS DRIVE TO DUMP TRASH?**

Let CRC know how we can help you find places to dispose of trash nearby!

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**QUESTIONS?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBMIT DATA ON YOUR CLEANUPS  
EMISSIONS TO CRC?**

**EMAIL [CLIMATE@CTRIVER.ORG](mailto:CLIMATE@CTRIVER.ORG)**

# TIPS FOR ESTIMATING YOUR CLEANUP COMMUTE



## NOTE THE TIME

- how long did your drive take you from home to the cleanup site?
- OR, how many songs did you listen to on the way? Songs are generally 3-4 minutes long.



## NOTE THE ROAD TYPE

- where you on a highway, backroads, residential streets - or all of the above?



## GOING THE DISTANCE

- you can use the following estimates to estimate the distance traveled to your cleanup:  
20 mins of highway travel = about 25 miles  
10 mins of residential travel = about 5 miles

**OR - IF GPS IS USED, MAKE A NOTE OF THE TOTAL TRIP DISTANCE**



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