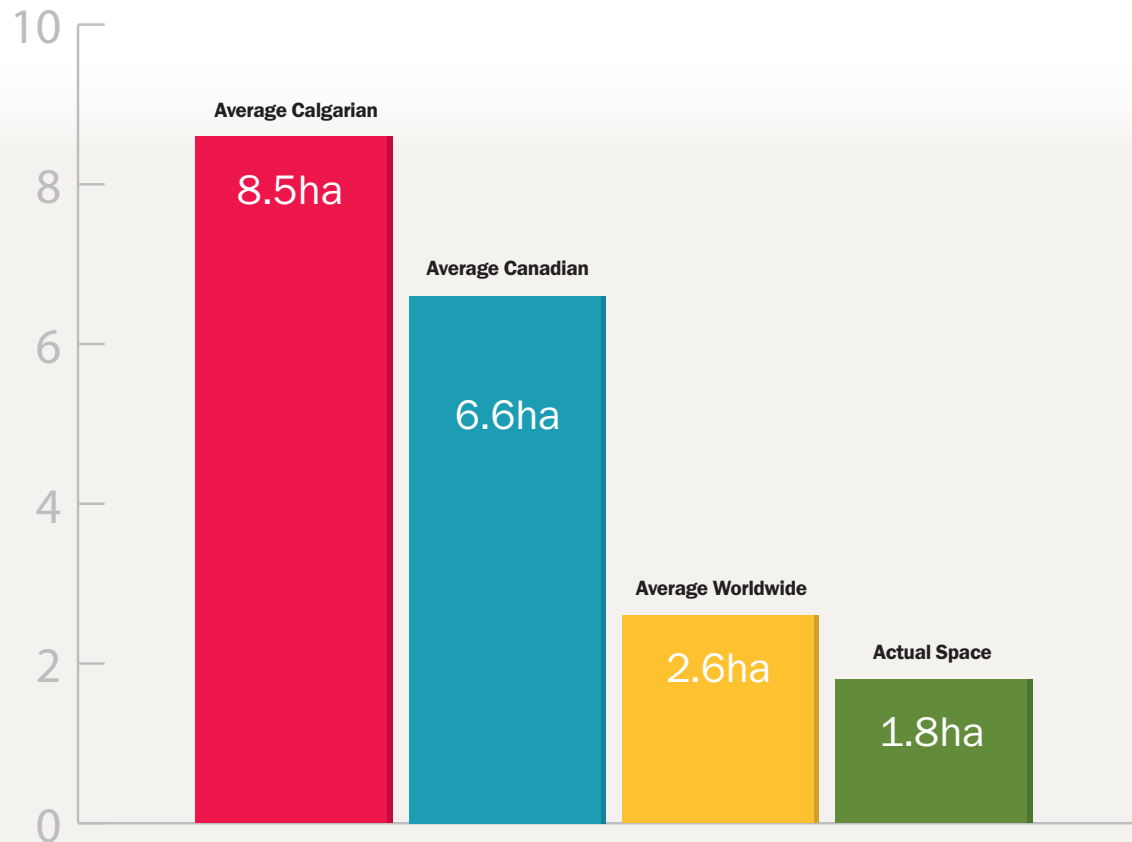


20 Steps to a Greener Home Tip Sheet

? Did You Know?

The eco-footprint* of the average Calgarian is **8.5 global hectares**, the average Canadian is **6.6** and the average person worldwide is **2.6¹**?

It is estimated that there is only **1.8 global hectares** available on our planet for each one of us; the way we live just isn't sustainable. However, through more responsible choices and incorporating new habits, all of us can lower our eco-footprints and save our planet for future generations!



We offer workshops on composting, making green cleaners, rainwater harvesting and so much more! Check out our website for upcoming learning opportunities. www.greencalgary.org/green-homes-communities.




***Eco Footprint:** A measure of how much area of biologically productive land and water an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates, using prevailing technology and resource management practices (measured in global hectares).



1. Calgary Personal Footprint Calculator. (2015). Retrieved from http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calgary_case_study. Public Data Package 2015 – Global Footprint Network

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 Take action! Utilize this list to accelerate your journey to green!

1. Start composting! Reduce landfill waste, return nutrients to the soil and avoid using chemical fertilizers in your yard and garden.
2. Lug a mug and drag a bag: Be conscious of reducing and reusing when possible, such as bringing your own bags to the store and your own mug to the coffee shop.
3. Go beyond recycling: Focus first on reducing and reusing, and then recycle what you can and try to purchase items made from recycled products.
4. Shop locally: Support green businesses and shop fair trade.
5. Buy less stuff: Borrow from friends, rent or look for second hand items.
6. Rid your home of toxic cleaning products: Replace them with green alternatives or make your own.
7. Choose natural personal care products: Read the labels on products and avoid ingredients that are known to be harmful, such as artificial fragrance and Triclosan ("anti-bacterial").
8. Go pesticide free: Weeds are not dangerous, but pesticides are.
9. Start grasscycling: Leave your lawn clippings on the lawn instead of bagging them.
10. Install and use a rain barrel: Capture rain water to use in your yard and garden instead of using municipal tap water.
11. Go low flow: Replace your toilets, showerheads, and taps with low flow models (<1.5gpm or 5.7Lpm).
12. Test your toilets for leaks: A leaky toilet can add up to 28 bath tubs of wasted water per month.
13. Hang your clothes to dry: Save energy by avoiding the clothing dryer, which is the second biggest consumer of electricity in your home.
14. Support renewable energy: Choose an energy provider that generates electricity from wind and solar power instead of coal.
15. Cut your phantom loads: Make sure to unplug electronics when they are not in use or put them on a power bar and turn the bar off when you're not using them.
16. Change your light bulbs: CFLs and LEDs are 75-95% more efficient than incandescent bulbs.
17. Travel lightly: Plan your vehicle trips so you can run multiple errands on the same trip. Consider biking, walking or taking transit whenever possible.
18. Go idle free: Idling wastes fuel, produces more harmful emissions, and contributes to climate change.
19. Eat consciously: Eat less meat, choose local, seasonal ingredients whenever possible and consider going organic if you can.
20. Grow your own food: Plant a garden or join a community garden.



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Greening Life Together