

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

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.

Over the past year, the Connecticut River Conservancy has taken 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 keeping track of 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!