

Human Communities and the Environment——(Unit 7)

Carbon footprint:

It is the amount of greenhouse gases mainly carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by human activities. It is expressed in carbon dioxide in equivalent tonnes that is tons of carbon dioxide emitted per year. When carbon footprint is large resources are depleted, more greenhouse gases are released leading to climate change. Burning of coal and fossil fuels as well as deforestation emit carbon dioxide. Carbon footprint can be reduced by conserving water, refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle of waste products and protect climate. These will save energy and natural resources and thus help in controlling global warming and thus climate change. The main causes, therefore, of carbon emissions are industrial processes, agriculture, electricity generation etc. Carbon emissions have serious consequences both on man and environment as a whole. Methods of reducing carbon footprint include driving more efficient vehicles, using public transportation, using energy efficient appliances etc. Companies such as Starbucks, Levi's, nestle and about 100 more are generating more than 70% of world's greenhouse gases. They need to use renewable energy for becoming more sustainable. The world in these recent months is seeing large drop in carbon emissions, the reason although is not to feel happy about but is the cut down due to shutdown of refineries, factories for conquering the corona virus.

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