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eNewsletter

## What's Your Carbon Footprint?

If you'd like to live more lightly on the planet, a helpful first step is to calculate the greenhouse gases you're responsible for now – your carbon footprint. Then, pick a few ways to reduce it.

Recently, Austin Energy launched a special online carbon calculator tailored to Austinites. It's an eye-opening tool. The average Austinite generates 11.4 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year – can you beat that footprint? (Even better, make lifestyle changes to beat the average Seattle resident, who averages 9.8, or Stockholmer, who averages just 3.8).

Austin Energy's One-Minute Calculator provides a quick picture, based just on your travel habits, diet, and home energy use. The Comprehensive Calculator gives a more accurate measure, determined by your habits for transportation, energy use, water use, waste, personal travel, and eating habits. A great feature that makes it easier: City of Austin utility customers can automatically upload their utility data.



We tried the calculator, and now we're considering the recommended lifestyle changes in each category – all of which help the family budget and other environmental issues too. A few actions to consider:

- Energy** – Join the city's Green Choice program for wind energy
- Water** – Pick up free low-flow toilets from the city, to replace old models
- Waste** – Start a compost bin to help reduce landfill GHG emissions

## About Noelke English Maples St. Leger, L.L.P.

### Advocates for Civility in Divorce

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