



GREEN GAIN CONSULTING

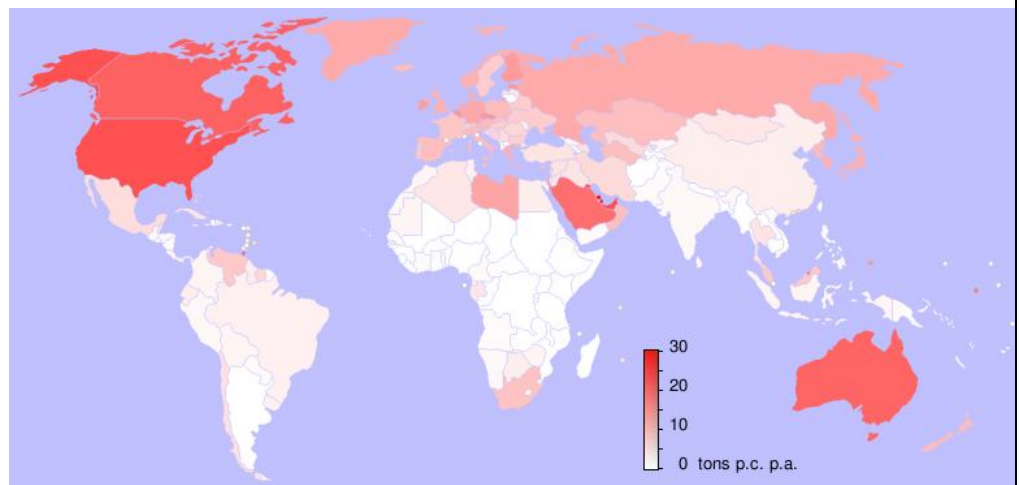
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Your Carbon Footprint



Greenhouse gas emission responsibility worldwide, 2008

Global warming and the idea of your personal contribution, your carbon footprint, can create an inner panic but with minimal effort we can all make a difference. There is a perception that global warming is least likely to influence 'ME' but one look at a weather forecast or a newscast is all the clarity needed to understand the true magnitude of the situation we humans find ourselves in.

Your carbon footprint is a measure of the amount of greenhouse gasses (GHG) produced by your activities and products you use over a time span of usually a year. These GHG emissions get trapped in the earth's atmosphere and this creates the phenomenon called Global Warming.

The main contributors to your carbon footprint are electricity consumption and transport but in the greater picture every single activity you partake in and every product you use has and contributes to your carbon footprint. To reduce your carbon footprint you need to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, this does not only help our mother earth and all of her inhabitants but is a fool proof way to save a lot of money.

Reduce

This concept concerns not only the amount of things you buy and use but also the amount of packaging these require. We often buy more than what we use and end up throwing a lot away, food is a prime example. Take some time the next time you're shopping and ask yourself whether you really need everything that is in your trolley.

You most certainly do not need 10 different prints of paper serviettes, buy fabric napkins and instead of buying disposable razors buy the type which uses refill blades.

'Drive less and more slowly, turn lights off when you are not using them and do not waste water may sound simple but it is pitiful how few people take the time to not only save themselves a little money but also save our natural resources.

Try to be mindful of packaging as well, buying goods in larger quantities usually reduces the amount of packaging, buying a 2l soft drink or juice instead of 6 smaller containers saves a lot of waste.



Reuse

Reusing items not only saves money but makes a big difference in our carbon footprint. In today's lifestyle most of us love shopping for new things rather than working out how to reuse 'old' items we already have at home, extremes include buying new clothes because you're too lazy to do

washing- true story! Here are a few ideas on reusing items:



Plastic bottles and containers can be used as birdfeeders or plant pots with minimal modification;



Mend clothes or make adjustments to oversized clothes before buying new ones;



Shoes can usually be re-soled or mended when you think they are over the hill;



Give unwanted clothes to charity shops or needy persons;



Use old towels and linen to make pet beds and old blankets can be used to make dog coats;



Donate old magazines or books to doctor's offices, charity shops or share them amongst friends;



Reuse dishwashing or bath water for watering plants;



Buying refill packs of household cleaners, spices and food and refill the containers you already have instead of buying new containers each time.

Recycle

Recycling is becoming more accessible in South Africa although infrastructure is not yet fully developed, mostly scavengers on municipal refuse sites collect recyclables and sell it to buy-back centres. Presently your main options are kerbside collection which involves private companies collecting your recyclables, drop-off centres and buy-back centres. The peace of knowing you're making a difference makes up for the small amount of effort it takes to recycle.

Treevolution has a guide to recycling in South Africa on their site which is very useful and lists what can or can not be recycled, visit them at www.treevolution.co.za. The site also gives information on kerbside collectors operating in certain areas in Johannesburg and Cape Town and where you can find drop-off and buy-back centres. According to their statistics about 67% of cans, 50% of paper, 21% of glass and 17% of plastic gets recycled in SA. This seems to be almost impressive but when you consider how much more can be recycled if we each do our part these figures are nominal.



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When all else fails you can join a carbon off-setting project which invests in projects that compensate for your emissions, this includes organisations planting trees.

So go on and make a difference, try using less electricity, travelling less, reusing items instead of replacing them and keep track of how much money you save in one month and the happy feeling your heart and mind is filled with.

New Legislation Environmental:

• **EIA Listed Activity Amended GN 32625, No. R. 971**

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs has amended activity 1 (i) as published in **Regulation 387 of 21 April 2006**. The amendment substitutes the expression **including** with the expression **excluding** for the activity to read as follows -

"the extraction or processing of natural gas **excluding** gas from landfill sites".

This means that an EIA is no longer required for the extraction of gas from landfill sites.

• **NEM: Protected Areas Amendment Act 15 of 2009 Commences Gazette 32660, No. 69 of 2009**

All sections except Section 1 and 8 of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Amendment Act have come into operation on the 23rd of October 2009.

The amendment to the following sections might be relevant –

- Section 28 - The declaration of a protected area lapses only after expiry of the period published by the Minister or MEC, who may also further extend the period if agreement has been reached by the owners of the land in question.
- Section 45 - The management authority may now provide for flight corridors over protected areas. Provisions to the use of the corridors apply.

• **Rules of Procedure for Judicial Review of Administrative Action Gazette 32622, No. R. 966**

Section 7(3) of the Promotion of administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000 requires that the Rules Board for Courts of Law make rules of procedure for judicial review. The Rules Board has made the rules and the Minister and Parliament have approved them.

Judicial review means a review of an administrative action and these rules apply to proceedings for judicial review in the High Court, the Labour Court or the Magistrates' Courts.

• **Rules of Procedure for Application to Court in Terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act GN 32622, No. R. 965**

The Rules Board for Courts of Law has under section 79 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000, made rules for application to court in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

• **Petroleum Pipelines Act Rules, 2009**
Gazette 32704, No. R. 1072

The National Energy Regulator (NERSA) has in terms of Section 33(3) of the Petroleum Pipelines Act made the Petroleum Pipelines Act Rules. These Rules will guide the following –

- General requirements for documents submitted to NERSA
- Applications and objections to license applications
- Consultation with interested and affected parties
- Complaints, investigations and inspections
- General provisions

The Rules also contains the following –

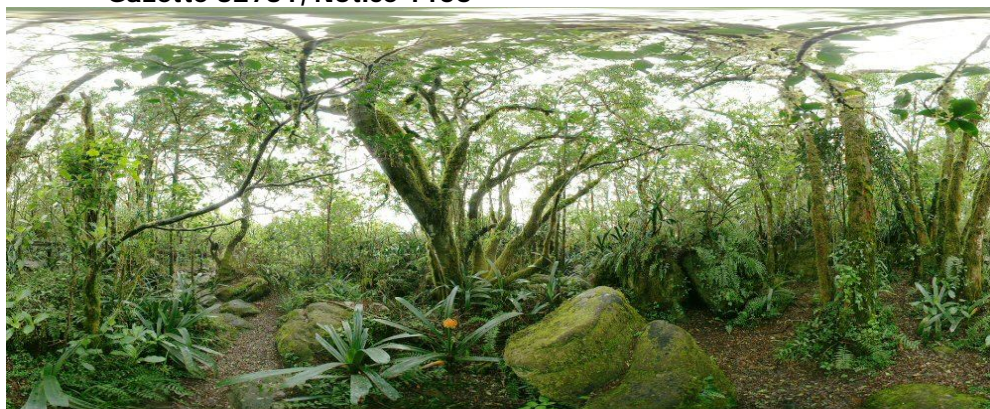
- Form: Request for confidential treatment of information submitted to NERSA
- Form: Application for a license
- Form: Objection to application for a license
- Form: Application for an amendment to a license
- Form: Application for a revocation of a license
- Form: Complaint
- Example of an authorisation permit issued by NERSA

• **Prohibition on the Making of Fires in the Open Air**
Gazette 32708, Notice 1073 – 1076

Notices have been published for the prohibition of making fires in the open air. These notices cover the following areas - Districts of Swellendam, Montagu, Robertson, Clamwilliam, Worcester, Piketberg, Ceres, Tulbach, Paarl, Caledon, Stellenbosch, Strand, Somerset-West and a portion of the Cape Peninsula.

It is advised that if you fall under these areas to conform to the notices. It is also advised that you check the notices as they have different applications for different districts and allow for burning permits to be obtained during these periods.

• **List of Protected Trees under the National Forest Act**
Gazette 32731, Notice 1106



A new list of protected tree species has been published. The list is exactly the same as last year's list and contains the same 47 listed species of protected trees.

Protected trees may not be cut, disturbed, damaged, destroyed nor may any person possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree or product derived from a protected tree, except under a license granted by the Minister.

Contravention is an offence that may result in a fine or imprisonment for up to 3 years, or to both such a fine and imprisonment.

*Wear it on
you're
sleeve:*



The greatness of a nation
and its moral progress,
can be judged by the way
its animals are treated.

-M. Gandhi

*We are
all leaves
on the
same tree.*

Health and Safety:

• **Dangerous Goods Training Bodies in terms of the National Road Traffic Act Gazette 32737, Notice 1111**

A new list of Dangerous Goods Training Bodies has been published in the above gazette; please refer to the document for the full list. All organizations involved in handling and transportation of dangerous goods must have undergone training with an approved dangerous goods training body. Clients must be able to verify this by means of records.

The following are the requirements to be approved as a Dangerous Goods Training Body obtained from the Department of Transport in terms of Regulation 280 of The National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No 93 of 1996):

- Application letter outlining the company's profile
- Company's accreditation with TETA specifically for unit standard 123259
- Learning material aligned to unit standard 123259 (in colour)
- Learners guide
- Facilitators guide
- Assessment guide
- CV/s of subject matter experts
- TETA's accredited Assessor/s for unit standard 123259
- TETA's accredited Moderator/s for unit standard 123259

The Copenhagen Circus

The International Conference on Climate Change took place from 7 to 18 December 2009 and its main aim was to establish a global climate agreement to take over where the Kyoto Protocol will leave off in 2012. Very few people, countries or organisations are happy with how the conference in Copenhagen went last year, somehow the conference managed to be a very expensive waste of time and money with the 'boss' nations refusing to see reason and the 'little guys' waging war with no result.



An agreement, the Copenhagen Accord, was formed committing to:

- Limit global warming to 2°C increase from pre-industrial limits; and
- Developing nations pledged \$30bn to aid developing nations...

And that was it...

There were high hopes for Copenhagen with developing nations finally realising the causes and effects of global

warming and an overall increase in education on the subject. Unfortunately the real offenders of our earth are the countries with all of the money and resources and although their actions are making developing nations suffer they clearly just do not give a damn.

Just for Interest

The Joy of Barriers

South Africa has had a surge of road works taking place in anticipation of 2010 and although these have been driving us up the walls, there are some silver linings!

Most new and many older highway on- and of-ramps are being separated from areas surrounding them by built up barriers making life a little bit more tolerable for residence living in the areas. Although these cement, brick and sometimes soil barriers tend to be the ugly ducklings they bring the joy of peace to surrounding neighbourhoods. These barriers block sound, the sight of highways and when constructed correctly can even reduce the amount of air pollution being spread from the highway to surrounding areas. Having a quite afternoon in your fresh smelling garden might just make you see a little bit more of a silver lining in the storm of road construction.

Heads Up...Number Plates



South Africa has made us all accustomed to changes, whether a city or airport names, how things look and work and for the most these have made our lives better in one way or another. Once again there is a change coming, Gauteng number plates will under go a format change between 31 December 2010 and 31 December 2012 under the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000. Personalised number plates will be affected as well and if you plan to keep your personalised plate you need to apply for such.

Environmentally Responsible Wedding

A couple in the USA have recently started planning the ultimate 'green' wedding, not necessarily because of venue, decorations or their menu but because of how they are collecting funds for this special day. The couple is collecting aluminium cans for recycling and so, can for can, getting the funds they need to hopefully get hitched by 31 July 2010. For this to happen they need to collect 400 000 cans which they are fairing very well with through the help of their local community and recycling companies. You can see how far they are from target in their ultimate wedding quest on www.weddingcans.com

A River of Possibilities...

The River Lee in Ireland has become one of the first technology enabled forces of nature according to a report in National Geographic. The river has been fitted with sensors which detect pollution in the river in real time and then wirelessly transmits its information back to a website as part of a water monitoring project called the DEPLOY Project. This project does not only assist scientist and environmentalist in acting immediately when pollution is detected but local residence check the website before going for a dip in the river. This project will be extended to multiple rivers once it successfully completes its trial run.

Have some fun...

Visit Ecogamer.com for some fun filled free environmental games to entertain the whole family! Some of my favourites:

✿ Build a House: Green Design Game

This is an environmental game where you choose the materials to construct a home and calculate the overall building footprint.

✿ Planet 10: Ecology Game

Design a 10th planet making decisions about size, spin, tilt, rings, atmosphere and biology.

✿ Stop Disasters: Disaster Game

The Stop Disasters Game allows you to anticipate and mitigate the affects of 5 common natural disasters: tsunami, hurricane, wildfire, earthquake and flood.

✿ Pollution Simulator: Pollution Game

Pollution Simulator is a game that lets you control pollution by engaging in anti-smoking campaigns, ISO 14001 standards and recycling, etc.

Dumping Death

Welkom has been experiencing an influx of dumping of medical waste in the past couple of months which includes syringes, used supplies, bloody linen, amputated limbs and old medications. This causes a significant health risk to communities, animals, soil and underground water reserves and a maximum penalty of R 10 million or 10 years in prison or both may be imposed for this environmental crime.

A waste company is being investigated by the Green Scorpions in connection with the dumping.

Any environmental crimes can be reported to 0800 205 005.

The Good News about Cell Phone Exposure!

Just when we thought that our technological 'life partners' are going to kill us for sure we are surprised by some good news! The Environmental News Network has reported that a study at the University of South Florida has shown that there might be some advantages to spending quality time with your cell phone.



USF did a study on mice which have Alzheimer's disease to investigate whether electro magnetic waves generated by cell phones have any influence on the mice.

They have found that cell phone exposure assisted in reversing memory impairment in mice and that cell exposure in early adulthood in the mice protected the mice in later life from Alzheimer's symptoms. To top it off the study showed that months of cell exposure boosted the memories of normal mice to above-average!

The Environment on the Go

Finally technology is embracing the environmental appeal through the savvy 'app'. You can now load an array of environmental applications on your iPhone and although most of them are currently directed at consumers in the USA, the trend is growing and will hopefully soon be available in South Africa. Here are a few handy applications:

- EcoSnoop is an application where users can post concerns, find green businesses in their area and post pictures of environmental infringements.
- GreenMeter calculates your vehicles carbon footprint on the go using the GPS locator on the iPhone.
- GoodGuide rates listed items in terms of safety, health and their sustainability.
- iRecycle gives the user recycling locations all over the USA.

Ditch the Bottle

Bottled water has become a necessity in some people's minds but we fail to understand the full extent of the bottled water dilemma. People prefer to drink bottled water as they believe it is cleaner and healthier but this is purely a well established marketing ploy by the bottled water industry.

In South Africa the bottled water industry is not regulated while our municipal water ranks amongst the cleanest in the world and with the World Cup approaching it is important to spread the message of how wasteful and unnecessary bottled water is. Bottled water's life cycle involves manufacture of plastic bottles, filling with water, transport to shops and last but not least disposal, this leads to an enormous carbon footprint for one bottle of 'healthy' water. It is estimated that it takes 3 times more water to make a bottle of water than it contains, in an arid country like South Africa this is shockingly wasteful! Using municipal water is much cheaper and environmentally sound than bottled water which may or may not be municipal water in a disguise- Make the wise decision and be a leader in saving our precious natural resources.

The Local Petri Dish



Being obsessive-compulsive about germs is often misunderstood by the masses but in today's day and age a certain measure of care is needed to ensure our healthy living and when faced with the facts OCD seems all the more reasonable!

Mother Earth Network described in an article the everyday situations in which we are exposed to illness and how we can protect ourselves in some of these situations. Most of us do not realise how 'dirty' our everyday routines are and with winter and another wave of H1N1 approaching it is now more important than ever to build up and protect our immune systems.

Some of the worst places for your health include doctor's offices, hospitals, public bathrooms and any enclosed area with a lot of kids and library books, public telephones and computers are scary germ monsters. Washing your hands often, keeping anti-bacterial wipes handy and staying clear of sick people reduces your risk of becoming ill but it is equally, if not more important, to drink your vitamins and have your annual flu shot. Be aware of your surroundings and the risks they hold and remember prevention is better than cure.

A Night In

Once again the seasons are turning and before we know it we'll be in the depths of winter not being able to remember our complaints about summer. The colder months do however bring the joy of big cuddly blankets, hot chocolate and movie nights. Mother Earth Network has listed its 10 top environmental movies of all

time which can make any winters night an educational, terrifying or eye opening experience. The following have made the list:

10. *Koyaanisgatsi*, 1982
9. *An Inconvenient Truth*, 2006
8. *The Day after Tomorrow*, 2004
7. *Fern Gully*, 1992
6. *Avatar*, 2009
5. *Chinatown*, 1974
4. *Soylent Green*, 1973
3. *China Syndrome*, 1979
2. *Erin Brockovich*, 2000
1. *Wall-E*, 2008



Indoor Air Quality Matters

Environmental News Network has reported that few people realize how toxic indoor air quality can be to their health. Chemicals in paint, cleaners and furniture and natural gasses can result in cancer, asthma, nervous and reproductive system damage and most of all a general feeling of being un-well. Some of the worst offenders are:

- Radon which occurs naturally in soil and seeps in through building foundations;
- Volatile organic compounds found in paint, cleaning products and adhesives;
- Plastics containing Bisphenol-A and Phthalates;
- Pesticides and herbicides; and
- Mold



The good news is that it is relatively easy to eliminate these poisons from our homes and workplaces. Firstly, DO NOT smoke inside a building, it is your own choice to kill yourself but remember that other people and your pets have a right to life. When painting ensure that the area is well ventilated until the paint is completely dry and keep out

until then, it is suggested that you let enamel paint dry and ventilate for at least 2 days before using the room. Read the ingredients in chemicals and pesticides before buying them and if possible do not use them, there are plenty of organic substitutes to using these and they are more kind to your health and our environment. Most importantly, love the fresh air! Open up your windows and ventilate all of the harmful substances which you do not have control over out of enclosed areas.

Regards,
GGC Team