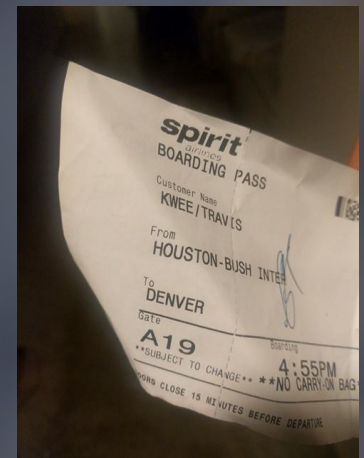


water

Lifestyle Profile

1. Tech: My phone
2. Food: Granola bar
3. Energy: Air Conditioning
4. Clothing: H&M Sweater
5. Transportation: flying from TX to CA



water

ITEM // ELEMENT	ESTIMATED EMBODIED WATER
A cell phone	<u>240 gallons</u>
A granola bar // Cereal	<u>22 gallons</u>
One day of air conditioning during the summer	<u>542 gallons</u> (for 21.6 kWh)
an H&M sweater	<u>150 gallons</u>
One flight from CA to TX	<u>18,000+ gallons</u>

water

I was surprised by how much water is required for a simple task like air conditioning a room. It turns out simple electricity use takes a ton of water for cooling the power plants that create them (assuming a majority of the electricity we use comes from coal or natural gas) not counting possible extra power losses and embodied water from transmission or pollution. A great alternative to conventional energy is wind or solar. There are no current low-water smartphone alternatives, but I have resisted getting a new one for over 3 years, so I save water that way. Bananas take less water than granola bars, and used clothing requires less than new. As for flights, I try to not take any extra flights than necessary, and consider (since I'm in the middle of applying to jobs) requesting skype interviews instead of in person, when possible.

water



Travis Kwee

Just now · 🌐 ▼

How much water does it take to produce the things you consume?

Texas is in a perpetual drought, and the it takes a surprising amount of water to produce the food we eat and the energy we consume--water we don't really have to spare.

A single pound of cotton takes about 100 gallons of water to grow and process which is why secondhand clothes are so helpful towards limiting your negative environmental impact.

When it comes to energy, I found that a majority of my embodied water usage came from the air conditioning in my room. It takes about 25 gallons of water per kilowatt hour and over 20 kWh of energy to condition a room in a day (equating to 500+ gallons of water a day) just to run an air conditioner. If you won't be in the room all day, just turn it off! It uses way more energy to run all day than it does to get back up to speed later on.

#PGC2017 Turning Green