

Project Green

Think:

- Learn how 2020's Earth Overshoot Day was calculated.
- Read this article to gain insight into COVID-19 and the climate.

1. Share a paragraph about how COVID-19 has impacted **your** lifestyle?

Coronavirus has both positively and negatively affected our lives and our lifestyles as a whole. The virus has negatively affected our lifestyles in the sense that we, for many months could not visit family members or friends. Some of us as individuals were unable to fly back to our home countries and thus we began viewing the virus as an extremely destructive entity regarding our social needs. In addition to the limitation in transport, we were unable to maintain physical relations with close individuals in the personal ways that we were used to and consequently began to feel trapped and lonely. This feeling of suffocation led us to be biased and not view or analyse the positives that were vastly occurring around us, such as the decrease in emissions due to the decline in industrial activity.

The virus has positively contributed to us as individuals as we have gained a new sense of responsibility. Having seen the drastic changes in the environment surrounding us made us realise the power we as a community have for change. Being able to reflect and analyse the changes of our daily routines during corona is astonishing. Common household products became more utilized, meaning that the need for new items was less necessary. Having risk when going out made us utilize next to 0 carbon transportation methods or resulted in us using a bicycle instead. This therefore, immensely cut our carbon footprint. Many other factors such as our use of aeroplanes dropped to a factor of zero. Combining our output with these factors shows how our daily lifestyles as a whole can drastically affect our environmental impact as a society.

2. Which change and step did you take? And what is your plan to follow through with that step?

There are many ways that one can help #movethedate the majority of which were highlighted on overshoottoday.org. Although when choosing a step to work on we had to be analytical and see which are most applicable in our everyday life and which step we as a group utilize the most (emit the most in). In contemporary society globalization is a familiar concept that is commonly exercised in people's everyday life. Statistically speaking transport is one of the largest emitters due to the combustion of fuel. But travel does not only entail cars, but also ships and airplanes. The utilization of these not only emits gaseous pollution but also noise pollution. An example of the benefits of decreased noise pollution (due to the virus) is the increase in whale

population/communication in Canada. Prior to the virus the waves and sound created by ships transporting goods on the coast of Vancouver would interfere with the communication of the whales at the coast. As a result there was a low population of whales and they were unable to find food. When the ships and aqueous transport suddenly stopped in March 2020 there was an increase in whales (this was deduced by the increase in fecal matter of that specific species).

We as a group will try to decrease our carbon emissions and our carbon footprint through the usage of our bicycles and public transport. We will do these things when possible and try carpooling when using a car is necessary. Using bikes will not only have a positive effect on the environment but also our health, as it is a form of exercise. Additionally we will decrease the amount we travel (go to other countries either by boat or plane).

3. Craft a pledge to commit to making this change.



We pledge to focus on more sustainable forms of travel by biking and walking whenever given the chance. While convenient, minimizing the use of cars and public transport will significantly lower our carbon footprint and hopefully work towards pushing back our personal Earth Overshoot Days. #PGC2020 @TurningGreenOrg @GlobalFootprintNetwork

