

Carbon Footprint Audit

Loyola University Chicago Jesuit Community

Completed: September 2020

Executive Summary

Motivation and Goals

This report grew out of a desire from our Green Team to understand our communal and individual impact on the planet. The goal of this report is to provide a common set of data as a basis for conversation and discernment within our Jesuit community about our caring for our common home. We hope this report prompts conversations and prayer within our community and with other communities. The success of this report will be defined not by how accurately it captures data numerically but by how it prompts us to live out our call for reconciliation with creation.

Methodology

This report provides a measurement of the "carbon footprint" of our Loyola University Jesuit Community. Carbon footprint is a common way of expressing the total emissions caused by an individual or group in terms of carbon dioxide "equivalent" or CO₂e. This equivalent does not express literally the amount of CO₂ emitted but is a single value that tries to account for a wide range of impact—including production, consumption, water usage, greenhouse gas emissions, and other factors. These values can help us compare actions to get a sense of scale and the effects of our lifestyle.

This report provides a data set based on information gathered from community consumption records (receipts from gas cards, for example), estimates of community consumption (two flights per year per person, for example), and average US consumption data (400 to 700 lbs of trash per person per year). It is difficult to capture all aspects of our community at once, but we felt it was important to give as complete an overview as possible rather than a strict report on definitive data. To focus on the data, we limit our commentary mostly to explanatory notes.

Major Findings

Our community emits **759 Metric Tons CO₂e** per year. That is the equivalent of 129 US homes' electrical use for one year. Our CO₂e breaks down into the following three main categories:

- 54% Utilities
- 21% Transportation
- 21% Food

Utilities 413 Tons CO ₂ e	Transportation 170 Tons CO ₂ e	Food 160 Tons CO ₂ e
53% Natural Gas	70% Gasoline	32% Beef
47% Electricity	23% Air Travel	40% Other Animal Products
	7% Other	28% Plant-Based Foods