



*The average Ontarian causes more than twice as much carbon pollution as the global average*

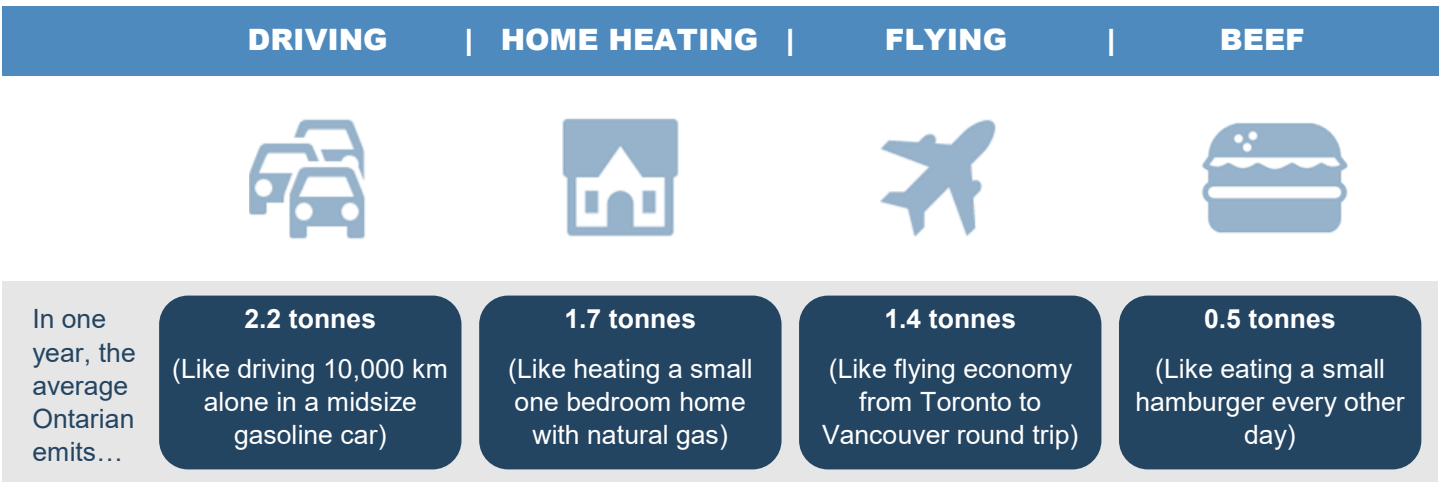
**Dianne Saxe**  
**Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**  
**March 2019**

## CLIMATE POLLUTION: REDUCING MY FOOTPRINT

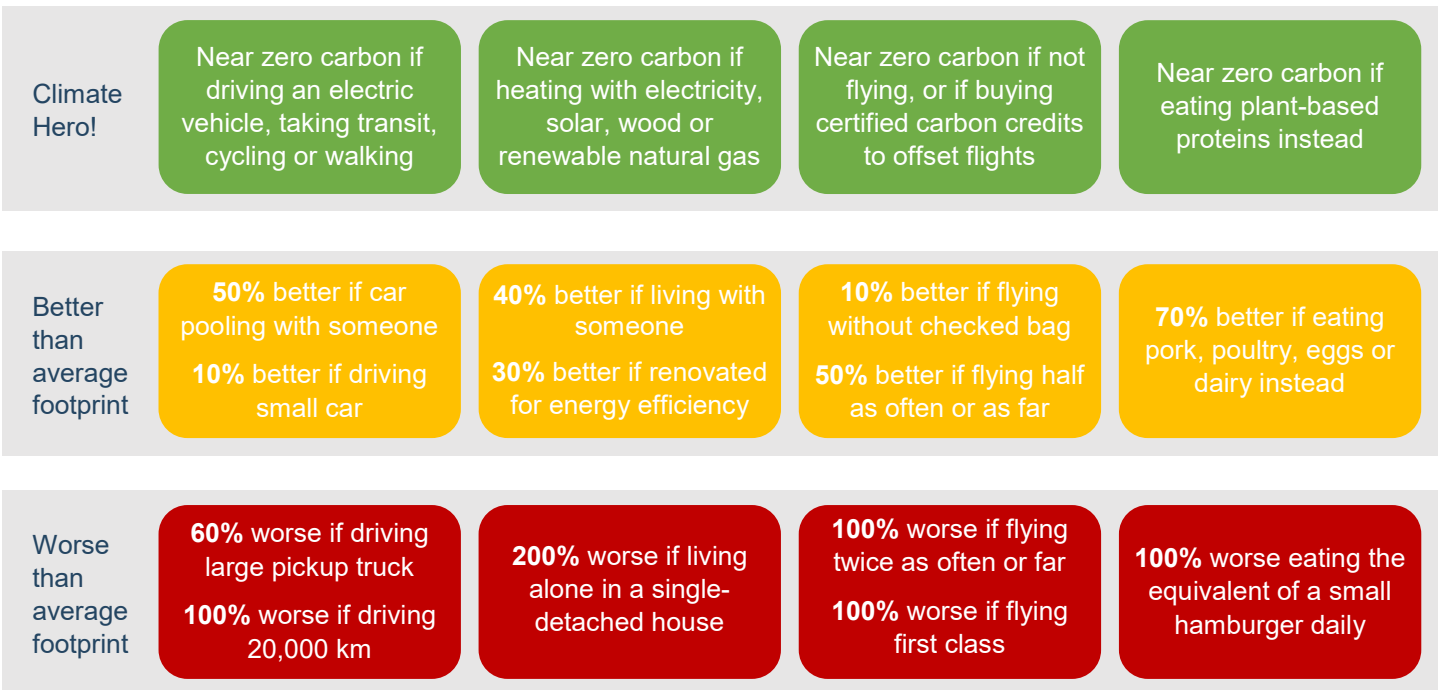
Ontarians have large carbon footprints. The average Ontarian personally causes about 11 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.\* More than half of the average Ontarian's carbon footprint comes from just four activities: driving, heating our homes, flying, and eating beef. For most people, the opportunities to reduce the most emissions are in those same four activities.

Individual actions are not enough to protect our global climate, but they are a great place to start.

\*carbon dioxide equivalents

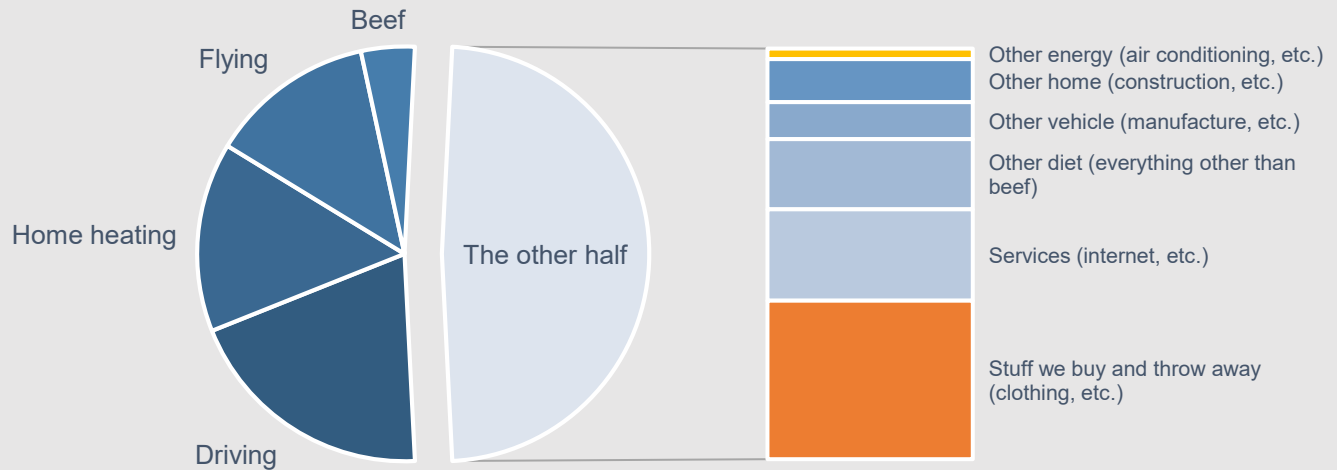


## HOW DO YOU COMPARE?



## WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER HALF?

### THE AVERAGE ONTARIAN'S CARBON FOOTPRINT



#### STUFF WE BUY AND THROW AWAY

The other half of the average Ontarian's personal carbon footprint is mostly from stuff and services we buy. Especially stuff. Many of us have too much of it. Buying fewer goods, making them last and throwing less away would really help. Recycling helps a little, but much less than we think.

#### OTHER ENERGY USE

Anything that burns fossil fuels is doing climate damage, including diesel generators, gasoline recreational vehicles, propane barbeques and natural gas power plants. Over 90% of Ontario's electricity is carbon free, but we often use natural gas to generate the extra electricity needed when demand is very high.



## THIS ISN'T THE WHOLE STORY



#### I'M NOT AVERAGE...

Everyone's life is unique and so is their carbon footprint. Whether you live in the city or the country, you can reduce some of your carbon footprint through individual actions. But other reductions depend on collective action and good government policy. See the backgrounder for ideas and work with your neighbours for opportunities.

#### SPEAK UP FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Climate change is everyone's problem. We all share the same planet, and we have to work together to solve this problem. That requires good government policies, like making polluters pay for the damage caused.

Individual action is a great place to start, but it would be a terrible place to stop. Will you speak up?



Download the backgrounder:  
[eco.on.ca/reports/reducing-my-footprint](http://eco.on.ca/reports/reducing-my-footprint)



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Commissioner  
of Ontario