

February 2008

Greetings all,

Below is an insert Curriculum Coordinator Meg O'Brien created for the Global Warming course books in order to clarify the carbon calculator confusion. We will be sending out these with all GW books. In case you'd like to do the same with your current books, here is the text from that insert.

Thank you!

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Visit our new website: www.nwei.org

Dear Global Warming: Changing CO₂course participants,

Thank you for participating in a Northwest Earth Institute discussion course. We hope it offers inspiration and support in your efforts to address climate change.

*It has recently come to our attention that the "carbon footprint calculator" on page 23 of the discussion guide has an error. The problem is in the calculation of household garbage emissions. This problem can be remedied by multiplying the number of gallons of trash by the correct figure of 104, and **NOT** multiplying that number again by 52, as it asks in the current calculator. We are sorry for any confusion this may cause.*

It's worth noting that even with this correction, the calculator still gives only an *approximate* measure of household carbon emissions. Recently, there has been an increased awareness of two important factors contributing to greenhouse emissions: Food and consumer goods. These are missing in this and most on-line calculators. I have found one calculator at www.coolcalifornia.org that does include these two factors. While we've found that most all of these carbon calculators have their limitations, they can still provide a general picture of greenhouse emissions and offer starting points for change.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to learn and adapt to new information. Again, thank you for your participation.

Best regards,

Meg O'Brien, Curriculum Coordinator

Inspiring people to take responsibility for Earth.

Start a small group discussion on issues that matter to you