

ABSTRACT NO.: 537

TITLE: **The Carbon Footprint Assessment: Minimizing Your Impact on the Environment**

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Issues regarding climate change have attained prime importance during recent years. Evidence shows that many decades of industrial development have been the cause of a rapid increase in the level of greenhouse gases e.g. carbon dioxide (CO₂) existing in the Earth's atmosphere. These increased levels of CO₂ have been cited as a contributory factor towards global warming. Most people however view climate change as a global issue and hardly ever focus on their individual contribution to this global issue; 'What is my impact on the environment?', 'How have I assisted in altering the Earth's climate system?'

The 'Carbon Footprint' or 'Carbon Profile' measures the impact of an individual's activities on climate change in terms of their carbon output or the amount of greenhouse gases produced whilst they conduct their daily routine. For the purpose of this project, the carbon utilization of two groups will be assessed and compared: tertiary-level students and working individuals in a corporate environment. Emphasis will be placed on how energy is utilized, an analysis of the efficiency of commodities used, including fuel efficiency of cars, efficiency of electronics, appliances and so forth, as well as the conservation of energy resources in an attempt to reduce the carbon footprint.