

Tampa to take measure of its carbon footprint

By [CHRISTIAN M. WADE](#) | The Tampa Tribune

The city plans to measure its carbon footprint to look for ways to reduce its energy bills and protect the environment.

Energy usage — natural gas, electricity, and petroleum — for the city-owned facilities and utility accounts will be measured to determine Tampa's greenhouse gas emissions.

Money for the \$70,000 study comes from a federal energy conservation grant. Bids went out Thursday and the study is expected to take about four to six months.

Thomas Snelling, the city's deputy director of growth management and development services and head of the "Green Team", said once the study is completed the city will use the information for energy conservation and carbon emission reduction policies.

"In order to determine the effectiveness of conservation strategies good metrics are needed," Snelling said. "This inventory will be one of the tools to help us do that."

Determining the city's carbon footprint was one of Mayor Pam Iorio's pledges when she signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement more than three years ago.

The agreement requires the city to meet a series of environmental benchmarks.

Iorio has trumpeted a series of environmentally friendly policies such as expanding the city's recycling program and offering incentives to developers to build environmentally friendly buildings and requiring city buildings to be constructed using those standards.

Still, critics say Tampa has a long way to go before it can consider itself green.

The city, for example, dumps more reclaimed water into Tampa Bay than it uses on lawns and the curbside recycling programs have been characterized by dismal participation rates.

Carbon footprint of other American cities

SMALLEST CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Per capita carbon emissions from transportation and residential energy use, 2005

Rank, Metropolitan Area, Carbon Footprint (metric tons)

1. Honolulu, HI, 1.356
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA, 1.413

3. Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA , 1.446
4. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, 1.495
5. Boise City-Nampa, ID, 1.507
6. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA , 1.556
7. San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA , 1.573
8. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA , 1.585
9. El Paso, TX , 1.613
10. San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA , 1.630

LARGEST CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Per capita carbon emissions from transportation and residential energy use, 2005

Rank, Metropolitan Area, Carbon Footprint (metric tons)

90. Tulsa, OK, 3.124
91. Knoxville, TN, 3.134
92. Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA, 3.190
93. Oklahoma City, OK, 3.204
94. St. Louis, MO-IL , 3.217
95. Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro, TN, 3.222
96. Louisville, KY-IN, 3.233
97. Toledo, OH , 3.240
98. Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN, 3.281
99. Indianapolis, IN, 3.364
100. Lexington-Fayette, KY, 3.455