

## Avoided Trips Worksheet



Staying home during this time is not easy for many people. The good news is that by not taking as many trips by car each day, you are helping the Earth by improving air quality and reducing pollution! See worksheet instructions on the next page.

Day of the Week	# Car Trips Regular Schedule	# Car Trips Now	# Car Trips Avoided
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			
TOTAL			

Take the total number of car trips avoided from the table above and multiply by 10 to see how many pounds of carbon dioxide you avoided putting into the atmosphere.

# Car Trips Avoided Total	Multiplied by 10	Pounds of CO <sub>2</sub> avoided
	X 10	

What does this mean? Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas produced by burning gasoline in your car's engine. It comes out of the tailpipe and goes into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases contribute to global climate change by trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. By avoiding these trips in your family's car, you are helping to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere. Even if this is only for a short time like a month or two, it is helping the Earth. Maybe you and your family will change your habits to help keep the air cleaner after you get back to your regular schedule again. The Earth will thank you. Happy Earth Day!



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### Instructions

- Think about how many trips you take each day by car during a regular week with school and after school activities and errands with adults and enter the number of trips each day in the first table.
- Next, think about how many car trips you are taking now that you are staying home with online school and after school activities cancelled and enter that in the table for each day.
- Take the # car trips regular schedule and subtract # car trips right now and record in the "Car Trips Avoided column".
- After you have entered all of your trips, add up each column to get the totals. What do you notice about the numbers?

In the second table, calculate the amount of carbon dioxide you have avoided producing by reducing the amount of car trips you take each day. If we assume that each car trip is 11 miles round trip, you will save about 10 pounds of carbon dioxide from going into the atmosphere as car emissions for each trip that you avoided taking in a car. You can take the total number of car trips avoided from the first table and multiply by 10 to see how many pounds of carbon dioxide you avoided putting into the atmosphere.