



Staples® and Students Together for a Smaller Footprint

Tread Lightly is a climate change education initiative offered by TakingITGlobal (TIG) with the generous support of the Staples Foundation for Learning®. The first Tread Lightly project, “Staples® and Students Together for a Smaller Footprint,” incorporates artistic expression, online tools and resources, along with a global 40-day challenge to engage secondary school students in minimising their ecological footprints.

How does it work? The footprint project will be implemented by participating schools across the globe in 3 steps:

Step1: Stepping In

What is an ecological footprint? How does your personal footprint compare to those of other citizens of our planet? If you could visualise your footprint, what would it look like?

At this stage, teachers will utilise the Tread Lightly Ecological Footprint Teacher Toolkit and related online resources to help students learn about the environmental impacts of everyday actions and behaviours. Students will calculate their footprints individually and compile their results to establish the classroom’s collective footprint. Students can also work together to estimate the footprint of the entire school.

Students will also have the opportunity to enter a visual representation of the demand they are placing on the planet into a global ecological footprint art contest. Artwork produced as part of the project will be displayed online as part of a special collection in TIG’s Global Gallery.

Step2: Stepping Up

In the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December, students and teachers around the world will work together to reduce their ecological footprints through a 40-day challenge. Launching on or before the International Day of Climate Action on Saturday October 24th, the challenge provides a prime opportunity to involve entire schools and broader communities in working for a more sustainable future.

Students and teachers can promote the challenge and empower others to become environmental stewards by prominently displaying art projects, hosting assemblies and workshops, leading action projects, and identifying ways to reduce their school’s footprint.

Online communication and collaboration tools available through TIGed virtual classroom communities will allow participants to share experiences, insights, and best practices, and compare their progress. The goal of the challenge is to establish more sustainable habits and decisions at a personal level while also working to effect systematic change through school-wide initiatives.

Step3: Stepping Back

Participating schools are encouraged to host an event to celebrate the successes of the project, inviting media, community members, and city council representatives to witness their achievements. The event will showcase student artwork and the results of the 40-day challenge, feature an inter-school webcast, and close with an awards ceremony recognising the leadership and hard work demonstrated by the students who took ownership of the project.

Join us

in the run up to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen to reduce your school's footprint for a greener future!



What support is available?

All participating teachers will be able to:

- Utilise the Tread Lightly Teacher Toolkit to help their students learn about climate change and ecological footprints.
- Access private, teacher moderated TIGed virtual classrooms to manage project initiatives and connect with participating students and teachers across the globe.
- Connect to the online TIG community of 260,000 individuals, which includes over 3,500 educators and 13,800 students across 83 countries.

How do I get involved?

Email info@treadlightly.me or visit www.treadlightly.me for more information on how to participate.

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