

Professor Barbara Joy
An Ecological Footprint Bibliography
MDC Kendall Campus



One Small Step: An Ecological Footprint Bibliography

Assignment

Students will complete the Greendex inventory available at <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/greendex/calculator> two times. The first time, they should fill it out as accurately as possible as it applies to their daily lives. The second time, they must change one variable, moving in what they suspect is a greener direction, and note the change in their Greendex score. For example, a student might accurately report that he eats beef several times per week, but upon re-taking the survey he selects the eats beef “once per week,” “once per month” or “never” option.

The students must then find evidence in published professional and popular literature that explains the change in their scores. They should use a variety of library databases that index earth science, social science, news/current events and general publications to generate a list of supporting documentation. The student’s top five sources should be arranged as an annotated bibliography, organizing citations by importance rather than alphabetically.

Rationale for Assignment

This assignment weaves together several learning outcomes. The first part of the exercise is designed specifically for students to note their impact on the environment, in particular, how just one of their normal behaviors has a much larger effect on the world around them. By locating published literature through the library databases and ranking their findings, students also incorporate the fundamentals of information literacy and critical thinking.