

## 1. Introduction

The Water Footprint Network offers an online calculator that allows individuals to estimate their water footprint by answering questions related to diet, household, and lifestyle choices.

## 2. Description

*Water Footprint Network provides an online water footprint calculator on their official website.*

The Water Footprint Network's calculator is designed to help individuals estimate their water footprint by considering various factors, such as their diet, household habits, and lifestyle choices. By answering a series of questions, users can get insights into their direct and indirect water consumption, as well as the virtual water embedded in the products they use and consume.

Project nr: 2021-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000032982



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication (communication) reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*

## When and how to use this tool

*The Water Footprint Network can be a valuable resource during the plastic recycling process, especially when considering the water footprint associated with different stages of the recycling chain and assessing the sustainability of plastic recycling efforts. Here's how and when you can use the Water Footprint Network during the plastic recycling process:*

- 1. Lifecycle Analysis of Plastic Recycling:** *The plastic recycling process involves multiple stages, from collection and sorting to reprocessing and manufacturing of recycled products. Using the Water Footprint Network's tools or water footprint calculators, you can analyze the water consumption at each stage of the plastic recycling lifecycle. This analysis will help identify water-intensive steps and areas where water efficiency measures can be implemented.*
- 2. Comparison with Virgin Plastic Production:** *Recycling plastic is generally considered more sustainable than producing new virgin plastic from raw materials. By using water footprint data from the Water Footprint Network, you can compare the water consumption of recycling processes with the water footprint of producing new plastic. This comparison can highlight the environmental benefits of recycling and support efforts to promote circular economy practices.*
- 3. Assessing the Water Footprint of Different Recycling Techniques:** *Different plastic recycling technologies and methods might have varying water footprints. The Water Footprint Network can help assess the environmental impact of using different recycling techniques and identify more water-efficient options.*
- 4. Identifying Hotspots and Improving Efficiency:** *The Water Footprint Network's analysis can pinpoint "hotspot" areas in the recycling process where water use is particularly high. Once identified, efforts can be focused on improving efficiency, implementing water-saving measures, and optimizing resource utilization in those critical stages.*
- 5. Decision-Making and Policy Support:** *Water footprint data can be useful for decision-makers, policymakers, and businesses to understand the environmental implications of plastic recycling. This information can support the development of sustainable policies and practices to promote efficient and water-conscious recycling initiatives.*
- 6. Education and Awareness:** *The Water Footprint Network's data and calculators can be used to educate stakeholders, including consumers, about the water footprint associated with plastic recycling. Increased awareness can encourage responsible consumption, recycling habits, and support sustainable product choices.*

*Keep in mind that the water footprint of plastic recycling can vary based on factors such as the type of plastic, recycling technology, regional water availability, and local recycling practices. Therefore, it is essential to use relevant and up-to-date data from the Water Footprint Network or other credible sources to make informed decisions and improvements in the plastic recycling process.*

## Material needed

Internet Connection: The Water Footprint Network's tools and resources are available online, so you'll need a stable internet connection to access their [website](#) and use their tools.

Data Inputs: Depending on the specific water footprint calculator or resource you want to use, you may need to provide data inputs related to your lifestyle, consumption patterns, or activities. For example, the water footprint calculator might ask about your diet, household water use, and other relevant factors.

Optional Account: Some tools or resources on the Water Footprint Network's website might offer the option to create an account to save and access your calculations or preferences. However, it's not always necessary to create an account to use their basic calculators.

## Resources

Links: <https://www.waterfootprint.org/>