

Step One:

Find out where the goods you buy come from. Look online at the Strategis Database to discover where imports to Nova Scotia are coming from. Go to...

http://www.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/tdst/tdo/tdo.php?lang=30&productType=HS6

Step Two:

Multiply the distance in kilometers the product travels by the mode of transportation (see below). These estimates are for bulk transport.

GHG Emission Factors For Different Modes of Transportation Per Tonne of Product

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Domestic Air | 0.002071 |
| Short Haul Air | 0.001439 |
| Long Haul Air | 0.000665 |
| Ship | 0.000222 |
| Truck | 0.000204 |
| Rail | 0.000017 |

World Resources Institute's Greenhouse Gas Protocol

For example:

In 2008 most imported wool came from Bangladesh (17,472 km) x 0.000222 (Ship) = **3.9 tonnes GHG emissions.**

If instead we considered wool travelling from Lismore to Halifax (193 km) x 0.000204 (Truck) = **0.039 tonnes GHG emissions!**

Voilà!

You now know the different transportation generated GHG emissions for your product.

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Full findings and methodology available at:

<http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content/goods-miles-project>

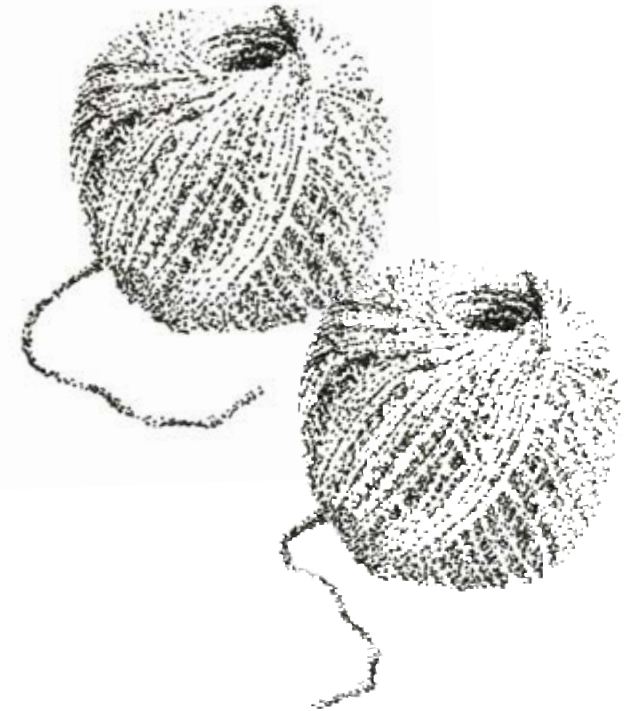
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Goods Miles

Mapping the Road to Sustainability



The Goods Miles Project seeks to increase public awareness about the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the transportation of the goods we buy. Case studies have been developed to compare local goods and imported goods.

Consumer purchases always have environmental impacts; this project helps explain what some of those are!

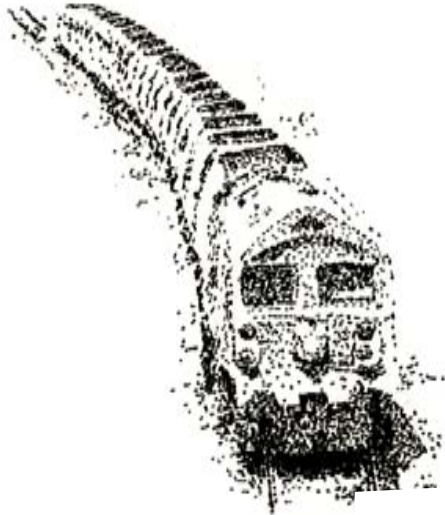
Why worry about Greenhouse Gas emissions?

Increases in Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) contribute to global climate change, which is resulting in receding glaciers and ice sheets, sea level rise, extreme weather events, and species extinction.

What does transportation have to do with it?

Depending on how goods are shipped there are more or less GHGs generated. Shipping by air has the highest GHG emissions by a wide margin, ship and truck follow, and rail has the lowest GHG emissions for freight transport by a wide margin.

This project focuses only on the transportation from manufacture to site of retail. Transportation is one part of an assessment of the environmental impact of a good. Other things to consider are the GHGs emitted through raw material extraction, manufacturing, packaging, etc.



In 2008 major imports of wool clothing to Nova Scotia came from Bangladesh, India and China.

The transportation-generated GHG emissions for wool clothing traveling from **Bangladesh** are **100 x higher** than a local comparison.

The transportation-generated GHG emissions for wool clothing traveling from **India** are **92 x higher** than a local comparison.

The transportation-generated GHG emissions for wool clothing traveling from **China** are **118 x higher** than a local comparison.

Buying Local Can...

- Build vibrant communities
- Create relationships between producers and consumers
- Increase awareness and self-reliance
- Help you to feel connected
- Create local informed, consumers who can make good decisions
- Keep money in the community
- Create jobs, retain locally relevant skills and nurture cultural memory

Recommendations for Sustainable Consumption

The transportation method you use to get to point of retail matters: walk, bike, skateboard and take public transportation to minimize your transportation-generated GHG emissions

Know where the products you buy come from; think about the social and environmental impacts

Make conscious decisions about what you want your hard earned dollars to support

Shop at farmer's markets

Join a Community Supported Agriculture group (CSA), or a buying club

Ask questions at stores, local institutions and your favourite restaurants

Support businesses that support local production and manufacturing

Plant a garden, recycle, swap, buy pre-used goods

Join one of the many organizations working on environmental and social issues

Distinguish needs from wants

Focus on long term goals (like taking care of the Earth for the next generation) rather than just short term desires

