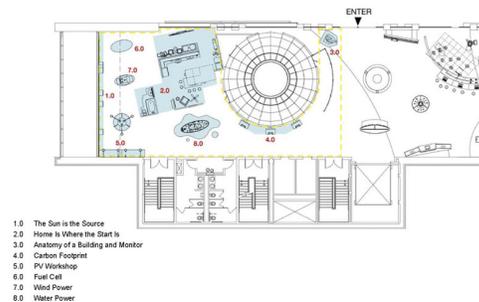


Smart Energy Gallery / Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, CT

Exhibition Design by Thinc Design
Exhibition Text by Josh Feinberg, 2008



Selected Texts from the Exhibition:

Power Pinball

Saving electricity is easy when you start small.

Ever left an empty room with the TV still on? Or stood in front of an open refrigerator, searching for a snack? These actions don't waste *much* electricity—just a few watts here and there. But it adds up. And since most of our electricity comes from coal and oil-burning generators, every watt of wasted electricity means more carbon dioxide released into our atmosphere.

So what can you do? Well, for starters, don't leave the TV on (unless someone's still watching). Or decide what to eat before opening the fridge. Small steps can lead to larger leaps. Today, you're buying a compact fluorescent bulb for your reading lamp. Tomorrow you might be driving an electric car.

Watt's the score?

- Pull the plunger to start.
- Use the flippers to keep the ball in play.
- Hit the targets to score “anti-watts.”
- How much electricity can you save?

Carbon Footprint Calculator

When it comes to the size of your carbon footprint, bigger is not better.

How big is your carbon footprint? Don't look at your shoes. Your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon you add to the air through your daily energy use. Like a footprint, it's a measure of what you leave behind. Every time you ride in a car, it adds to your carbon footprint. Even turning on the light adds up—if the electricity comes from a coal-burning power plant.

Think about the things you do every day that use energy. Each of these adds greenhouse gasses to our atmosphere. Now multiply that by 365. That's a lot of carbon. The average American has a carbon footprint of about 20 tons a year, but with a little effort, you can shrink yours. As for your shoe-size, you're on your own.

Are you a big-foot?

- Answer each question as best you can.
- Be honest.
- Can you shrink your footprint?

Strength in Numbers

What if everybody did it?

The number of people who live in our city, our country, and our world grows every year. That means we need more electricity to keep things running and more cars to get people where they need to go. And that means more greenhouse gas emissions. Or does it? What if everyone made some simple changes in their habits?

Imagine, for example, that every household in the U.S. replaced the incandescent light bulbs in just one room with energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs. We would save more than 800 billion kilowatts of electricity—enough to light 2.5 million homes the next year. And it would keep one trillion pounds of greenhouse gasses from entering the air, equal to the emissions of about 800,000 cars.

Multiply your impact.

- Most people want to make a difference. You can show them how.
- Multiply an action by a number of people, an amount of time, or both.
- How much can you save?