

HUMAN NATURE PROJECTS

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition Human Nature Project's revamped newsletter, where the stories are as compelling as ever!

We're dedicated to helping you stay informed, engaged, and empowered -- together, let's make a difference!

Feature: The Carbon Cost of Private Jets**Feature: Oceanic Transport****For Further Reading: Private Jets and Oceanic Transport****For Further Reading: Other Environmental News****HNP Ontario x Councillor Santos' Community Clean Up!****References and Credits****Land Acknowledgement**

We at Human Nature Projects Ontario acknowledge that we operate on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishinabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Ojibway-Chippewa peoples. Indigenous Peoples have stewarded this land for thousands of years, and their deep connection to its ecosystems inspires us to ensure its ongoing health. This acknowledgment reminds us of our responsibility to care for our communities, uphold the Treaties we live under, and honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples—past, present, and future.


The Carbon Cost of Private Jets



Imagine one's favourite celebrities, athletes, and politicians, who **actively advocate** for lowering the public's carbon footprint, but choose to board their private jet a few hours later, emitting up to 40 times more significant carbon emissions compared to a passenger on a commercial flight (Private Jet Emissions vs. Commercial | NovaJet Knowledge Sharing, n.d.).

Contradicting, isn't it?.

A single hour of flight on a private jet emits the same amount of carbon dioxide as a car driving from New York to Los Angeles. (Times, 2024).



PRIVATE JET EVOLUTION (1960S-PRESENT)

Private jets first came to be in the 1960s, mainly catering to the wealthy. In the wealthy's eyes, private jets provided **privacy** and **convenience** for their busy schedules.

In the 21st century, private jets have become **increasingly popular** with the growth of globalization (BBC Newsround, 2024). Specifically, entrepreneurs, celebrities, athletes, and politicians use private jets frequently for **unnecessary reasons**. **Half** of these travels are **less than 500 km** of distance (BBC Newsround, 2024).



LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Although aware of their carbon footprint, **celebrities lack accountability** for their actions.

For instance, **Taylor Swift** received many complaints about excessively using private jets. However, instead of addressing them and holding herself accountable, she sent legal threats to involved parties (Tajeddine, 2024). **Leonardo DiCaprio**, is another example of contradictory celebrity behavior, as he was found to have flown a private jet twice in just 24 hours to receive an environmental award (Tajeddine, 2024).

Moreover, fans' **blind support** drives celebrities' lack of responsibility for their actions. Buying celebrity merchandise and attending significant events like Coachella lead to massive waste (Tajeddine, 2024). Celebrities often participate in such significant events to promote environmental action, yet the waste these events **takes away from their environmental message**.

THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF A PRIVATE JET PASSENGER IS 400 TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PASSENGER! (TIMES, 2024)





The Carbon Cost of Private Jets



CO₂ EMISSIONS COMPARISON BETWEEN TRADITIONAL FUEL AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL (SAF)


- Traditional fuel used in private jets leads to significantly higher CO₂ emissions than SAF (Times, 2024).
- SAF is composed of rare resources such as water biomass.
- SAF has an **80% lower carbon footprint** compared to traditional fuel sources (Times, 2024).

TYPES OF POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM PRIVATE JETS

- **Nitrous Oxide (NO_x)** is a greenhouse gas which, although found in smaller amounts than CO₂, is far more effective at trapping heat. NO_x leads to the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layers, increasing the amount of UV radiation reaching Earth (How does Nitrous Oxide Affect the Environment? - The Environmental Literacy Council, 2024). Increase in UV radiation results in elevated risk of skin cancer and causes significant threat to biodiversity and ecosystem threat. Private jets are responsible for about 15% of the total NO_x emissions in the atmosphere (Times, 2024).
 - **Particulate Matter Emissions (PM)** include carbon, nitrogen and sulphur oxides, which lead to cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and lung cancer (Times, 2024).
 - **Noise Pollution:** Private jets can produce noise levels of up to 90 decibels (comparable to a rock concert), disrupting humans and wildlife (Times, 2024).
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CALL TO ACTION

- **Prompt Action:** Immediate action is needed to address celebrities' actions.
- **Fandoms:** Fans must stop supporting celebrities by ignoring their destructive actions. Celebrities must change align their actions with their advocacy for environmental sustainability.
- **Influence:** Celebrities have tremendous power to make change. By using their voices and promoting climate change solutions through their actions, they can set an excellent example for the general population (Tajeddine, 2024).
- **Transition from Traditional Fuel to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):** SAF can hugely reduce CO₂ emissions from aviation (Times, 2024).



Nitrous Oxide (NO_x) emissions from private jets have a global warming potential about 300 times than that of CO₂ (Times, 2024).



OCEANIC TRANSPORT



OUR NEED FOR SHIPS

Oceanic transport—whether **cargo ships, cruise ships, or ferries**—are a huge part of how the world moves. Cargo ships alone handle over 80% of global trade (One Ocean Foundation, 2024), making them the go-to for moving stuff across continents. There are **over 50,000 merchant ships** on the ocean at any given moment (Shi et al., 2023)! Ferries are lifesavers for commuters in places like the Mediterranean, while cruise ships attract millions of tourists every year, **boosting local economies** (One Ocean Foundation, 2024). These ships **keep the world connected**, but here's the catch: there are four major ways that they are **negatively impacting the environment**.

CARBON EMISSIONS

01

First, let's talk **emissions**. Due to the heavy fuel they burn, ships and ferries are responsible for about **2-3%** of the world's CO₂ emissions (Transport Environment, 2021). This doesn't just fuel climate change—it **also makes the oceans more acidic**, which is bad news for coral reefs and shellfish.



02

OIL SPILLS

Second, **oil spills**. Shipping and tanker accidents cause up to **45% of oil spills** in the ocean (Zhang et al., 2019). These spills can dump millions of gallons of oil into the water, killing marine life and wrecking ecosystems for decades. Remember the **Deepwater Horizon disaster** in 2010? That spill alone released over **130 million gallons of oil** into the Gulf of Mexico, and the damage is still felt today (The Ocean Portal Team, 2018).

INVASIVE SPECIES

03

Third, ships are basically **taxis for invasive species**. Zebra mussels, toxic algae, and other hitchhikers sneak into ballast water or cling to ship hulls, then wreak havoc in new environments. For example, the **European green crab**, introduced to North America via ballast water, has been wiping out local shellfish populations for years (Invasive Species Center, 2025).

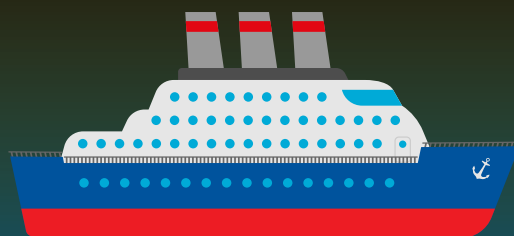
CALL TO ACTION

So yeah, oceanic transport is **essential**, but it comes at a cost. The good news? **There are ways to make it greener!** In mid-2023, the first modern **wind-powered** cargo ship set sail, with the potential to decrease fuel usage by 1.5 tonnes per ship per day on average global routes (Baird, 2024). Not only that, but the International Maritime Organization (2025) has implemented **regulations to improve fuel efficiency**. Additionally, it's now mandatory for ships traveling across ecosystems to undergo ballast water treatment, ensuring those pesky hitchhikers don't ruin new environments (International Maritime Organization, 2019). More action is needed, but all in all, **the future of eco-friendly(-er) oceanic transport is looking pretty bright!**

04

NOISE POLLUTION

Finally, don't forget **noise pollution**. The constant hum of ship engines messes with marine life that relies on sound to survive (One Ocean Foundation, 2024). Whales and dolphins, for instance, use **echolocation** and **vocalizations** to navigate and hunt. Ship noise can **drown out their calls**, leaving them stressed, disoriented, and even stranded (One Ocean Foundation, 2024). Over time, this **disrupts entire ecosystems**.



FOR FURTHER READING

ON THE CARBON COST OF PRIVATE JETS



Note. Image supplied by Canva

Private Aviation is Making a Growing Contribution to Climate Change

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

This article provides an extensive look through a major study on the impact of private aviation usage, and its growth throughout the years. Researchers explain how rapidly growing this problem is through a wide range of statistics including maps and other visual aids of the respective data collected.



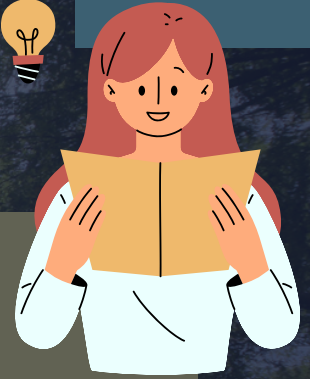
Note. Image supplied by Canva

What Are Celebrities' Carbon Footprint?

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This blog provides an overview on the carbon footprint of some of the most well known celebrities, in regards to their private jet usage. It highlights the specific amounts of carbon dioxide emitted through their private aviation, and how tours and the Super Bowl play a major role in these emissions. This blog covers the topic of celebrity influence, and how this drives modern day consumerism.

FOR FURTHER READING ON OCEANIC TRANSPORT



Note. Image supplied by Canva

Cruise Ship Pollution's Effects on Marine Life

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This blog accounts for the impacts of the cruise ship industry, focusing primarily on its negative impacts on marine life. It mentions the specific ecological impacts of waste and noise pollution, as well as expands on the long-term consequences of the industry.



Note. Image supplied by Canva

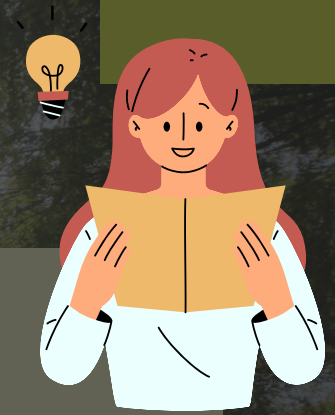
8 Ways Cruise Ships Can Cause Marine Pollution

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

This article provides a list of the eight most notable negative effects of cruise ship pollution. It involves recent international statistics, and explains each impact thoroughly. A “frequently asked questions” section is included to enhance further understanding.

FOR FURTHER READING

Other Recent
Environmental News...



Anthony Wallace/AFP/Getty Images, 2025

South Korea Hit With Worst Ever Wildfires In Nation's History

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Wildfires in South Korea's Uiseong county has resulted in the charring of more than 33,000 hectares of forest land. Dozens have perished, as various buildings, most notably temples, have suffered irreparable damage. Experts say climate change played a role in the severity of the fires.



Avalon/Universal Images Group/Getty Images, 2006

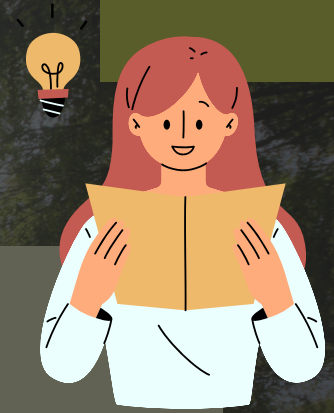
US Could See Return Of Acid Rain Due To Trump's Rollbacks, Says Scientist Who Discovered It

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

President Donald Trump's rollback of various pollution protection programs by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could, according to the scientist who discovered it, bring back routine smog covering and acid rain in America. Experts say these rollbacks risk thousands of deaths, and various other diseases.

FOR FURTHER READING

Other Recent
Environmental News...



Note. Image supplied by Canva

Deforestation Threatens Climate Goals

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Forests absorb about one-fifth of human emissions. However, deforestation poses a severe risk to this ability. If prompt action is not taken to account for the absorption decline, the Paris Agreement climate targets will be delayed and may be more costly.



Note. Image supplied by Canva

Glaciers Melt at Faster Rates as Temperatures Climb

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

Glacier depletion due to global warming, accelerated by human-driven actions, poses severe environmental risks—glacier melting leads to increased risk of flooding, loss of freshwater supplies, and hydropower disruption. Prompt action is necessary to monitor and protect glaciers.



Rowena
SANTOS

Regional Councillor,
Brampton Wards 1 & 5

YOUTH COUNCIL



**EARTH
DAY 2025**

**PARK CLEAN-UP
TREE PLANTING
E-WASTE TECH COLLECT
FREE COMMUNITY BBQ**

**SUN
APR 13
10AM-12PM**



**ANDREW
MCCANDLESS
PARK**

SCAN TO REGISTER
CouncillorSantos.ca
/earthday2025



- 🌱 **Volunteer Hours!** Earn community service hours.
- 🌱 **Park Clean-Up** Help keep our green spaces clean & beautiful.
- 🌱 **Tree Planting** Hosted by the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC).
- 🌱 **E-Waste Tech Collect** Bring your e-waste to be recycled responsibly with Let's Get Together.
- 🌱 **Free Community BBQ** Provided by the City of Brampton.
- 🌱 **Refreshments** Complimentary Coffee, Tea & Hot Chocolate Sponsored by Concord in the City.
- 🌱 **Water Refill Station** Bring a reusable bottle!

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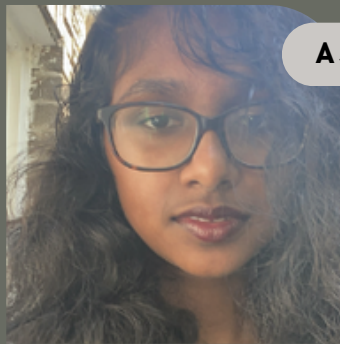
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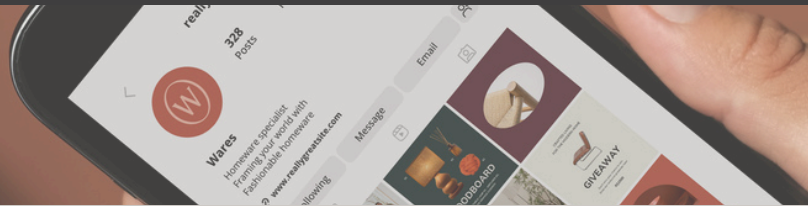


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