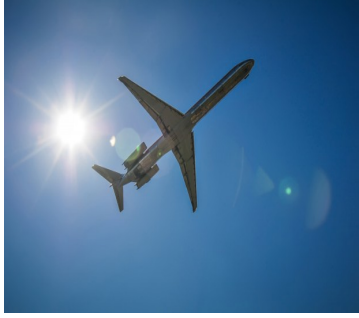


Sustainable Gap Years

[04/01/2015 Heather Vaught Portland Headquarters](#)

What's travel's environmental impact? And how can you be a sustainable traveler?



Congratulations! You've decided to travel internationally during your gap year. You're thinking about all the new people you'll meet, the adventures you'll have, the places you'll go – but have you considered the environmental impact you'll have?

“Impact?” you ask. “But I’ll be living out a backpack, maybe taking fewer showers, not driving a car....”

While that can help, for many of us travelers, the environmental impact of airplane travel is the biggest contributor to our carbon footprint.

While the airline industry overall is working to develop more fuel-efficient planes, progress has been slow. In the meantime, it's up to gap year organizations and students to consider how to offset carbon emissions during a semester of international travel. .