

Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons
<http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/dspace/>
This is the author's preprint version of this article.

A Lighter Footprint: A Practical Guide to Minimising Your Impact on the Planet.

Angela Crocombe. Scribe, 2007.

Review by Gillian Dooley for *The Adelaide Review*, 3 August 2007, p. 24.

A Lighter Footprint brings together advice from many sources on the major areas of environmental impact – energy, water, food and waste – and gives advice on what action individuals can take to make a difference.

Her point of view is that of a concerned citizen rather than a scientist, and sometimes, despite the clarity of her prose, it's obvious that the issues are more complex than can be canvassed in the space she has available. Her 'Ecological Footprint Quiz' is deeply flawed: many of the questions are so broad as to be meaningless, and the scoring system doesn't work. She tends to mix up her issues as well: she focuses on the health effects of yucky chemicals in cosmetics and dry cleaning, rather than the environmental impacts. In her discussion of air conditioning she never mentions the comparative benefits of evaporative systems; and she doesn't consider the option of living without a dishwasher, while exhorting her readers to become vegetarians, or even better, vegans. Still, she provides a useful resource list and if you can stomach statements like 'We now have the capitalist mentality of unending wealth and consumption' (speak for yourself!) much can be learned from this book.