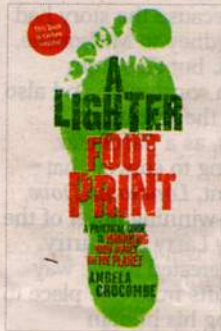


## THE ENVIRONMENT

**A Lighter Footprint**

Angela Crocombe

Scribe, \$24.95

Reviewer *Lorien Kaye*

LIKE ABC TV'S *CARBON COPS*, the emphasis in this friendly book is on getting ordinary people to make small changes in their lives to reduce their carbon emissions and, therefore, their impact on the environment. This means that *A Lighter Footprint* is a mix of "no shit, Sherlock" moments (large four-wheel drives aren't appropriate for inner-city driving) to truly helpful hints on everything from composting to renovating.

Angela Crocombe also reminds us that not all environmental decisions are clear-cut. Food is particularly troublesome. We know we should be eating food with as few "food miles" as possible but what about a crop such as rice, which is generally unsuited to Australian conditions? Is it, therefore, better to buy rice that originates somewhere else? Crocombe leaves us to make our own decisions.

Two criticisms: Crocombe's determination to be gentle with her readers lest they be scared off making any changes means that she is soft on environmental crime. For example, she accepts the use of tumble dryers, giving hints about using them better rather than justifiably insisting that they not be used at all. Then there is the logical slip in the chapter on personal care where all "chemicals" are tarred with the same "bad" brush.

But overall *A Lighter Footprint* is genuinely useful, particularly as a reference book for dipping in and out of, and as a directory to other resources.