

# Carbon footprint

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [September 8, 2009](#) issue

Mine is reasonably small  
having always lived low,  
turned off lights and faucets,  
eschewed useless stuff,  
reused, recycled.

I do not aspire to shrink it,  
but, like the first people  
in these green hills,

I want to leave  
no footprint at all,  
to move through life  
in gentle, charitable silence  
not disturbing fragile things,  
cosmic balances  
or the universal pulse  
so that, when my candle  
sputters into darkness,  
the tiniest leaf is unmoved  
by the wisp of its rising smoke.