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Module 03: Energy & Climate Change

Urban EcoLab

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## Student Pages - Google Earth

Center for Urban Resilience

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**Activity 6.2: How far did this lunch travel?  
(Google Earth)**

Many of us rarely give much thought to where the food we eat originally came from. A lunch bag containing a tuna fish sandwich with a bag of potato chips, a small carton of milk and fruit salad may not seem like an “energy sucker”, but do you know how far this food traveled to get to the bag?

Food	Product of
Tuna Fish - “Chicken of the Sea”	Thailand (distributed through San Diego)
Bread	A local bakery
Mayonnaise – “Hellman’s”	New Jersey
Potato Chips	Washington State, Colorado or Idaho
Milk – “Horizon Organic”	Colorado
Fruit Salad - Banana	Costa Rica
Fruit Salad – Orange “Sunkist”	South Africa
Fruit Salad – Kiwi “Zespri”	New Zealand
Fruit Salad – Grapes	California
Fruit Salad – Strawberries	Mexico

1. For each of the following food items, determine the distance it traveled to go from its original place for growth or fabrication to get to us here in Massachusetts.
2. Using Google Earth (<http://earth.google.com>) begin by typing in the location into the small window that says “Fly To”.
3. Open the tools at the top of the page and click on Ruler. Remove the check mark from the “Mouse Navigation” box.
4. Click on the start location, move the mouse to the ending location, click again and the distance will appear in the window.
5. For long distances, you may need to zoom out, and rotate the globe. Zooming and rotating can be done by using the Navigation Tool located at the upper right hand side of the window. When you place the cursor on the directional compass, the navigational tool appears. Click the ruler curser on your starting location, at any time you can click on the map, use the Navigation Tool, and then re-drag your line to the proper location by placing your cursor on the red box.

Food	Distance traveled to Massachusetts
Tuna Fish - “Chicken of the Sea”	
Bread	
Mayonnaise – “Hellman’s”	
Potato Chips	
Milk – “Horizon Organic”	
Fruit Salad - Banana	
Fruit Salad – Orange “Sunkist”	

Fruit Salad – Kiwi “Zespri”	
Fruit Salad – Grapes	
Fruit Salad – Strawberries	
<b>Total Distance Traveled</b>	

1. The circumference of the earth is approximately 24,900 miles. Compare your total distance traveled to the circumference of the earth. How far around the earth did your food travel? How does your total above compare to that number?

2. What are some forms of transportation that would need to be used in order to bring different types of food products and ingredients to the average lunch bag? How might this contribute to climate change?

3. Reflecting on your answer to question #2, what are some choices you could make in preparing a lunch that would contribute less to climate change? Why?