

Food Trucks v. Restaurants Impact on the Environment

	Food Trucks	Restaurants
Physical footprints – operational square foot (sf)	Truck exterior dimensions: 24'-26' length; kitchen interiors: 14'-18'(l), 84"-93" (w) and 78"-90" ceiling heights: average size: 250SF – 300sf	Average size 1,000-5,000 sf
Energy Use	900 gallons of Propane/yr (full seasonal use)	Use 38.4 kWh of electricity/sf ie. 2000SF = 77,000kWh/yr Use 141.2 Cubic feet of natural gas/sf ie. 2000SF=2824 therms/yr
Vehicle Miles	Unknown - short distances but daily trips to various locations	Unknown, but requires produce/product deliveries; less frequent longer distance (ie. It takes 10,000 miles for Fiji bottled water to get to Calgary); some short distance travel for delivery/catering services
Waste (same for both: improper disposal of waste).	Some eco trucks use compostable but this still creates waste and end in landfills if not disposed properly	Same as food trucks, waste often not disposed properly; some restaurants are able to collect almost all food scraps for composting (if avail.) But still improvements required: NRA estimates that 20% of all food goes to waste
Water conservation	Low impact; max volume discharge: 200litres-250litres holding tank capacity x 47 trucks per day = 9400litres.	Unknown but suspect high impact/usage: regular washing/food washing/dishwasher/laundry, all season water use & consumption; operating longer hours.
Food Source (both industries have the opportunity to buy locally).	Small, local vendors. Opportunity to buy locally.	Same as food trucks. Opportunities to buy locally; however, most buy globally
Operation	Summer/seasonal (in Calgary, Mid-May, early June to September) and during lunch hours 10am-2pm	Year-round regardless of weather. Hours of operation depends on restaurants, but some open from breakfast time to late dinner hours.

A high-level analysis indicates that restaurants tend to have greater environmental impacts than FSFV due to the size differences (most restaurants are 1,000sf – 5,000sf, in comparison, FSFV are only 250sf – 300sf); and other operational factors such as hours of operation, full-season.