Climate Change & You

WHAT YOU CAN DO *at home*

Making a few small changes in your home and yard can lead to big reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and save money.

Resources

ENERGY STAR Change A Light program: **www.energystar.gov/changealight**

EPA's Green Power Web site: **www.epa.gov/greenpower**

EPA's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Web site: **www.epa.gov/msw/reduce.htm**

EPA's WaterSense Web site: **http://www.epa.gov/watersense/**

EPA's GreenScapes program: **www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/index.htm**

EPA's Climate Change: What You Can Do at Home Web site: **www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/home.html**

EPA's Household Emissions Calculator: **www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/calculator/ind_calculator.html**

1. Change five lights

Replace your five most frequently used light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR qualified options and you will help the environment while saving about $60 a year on energy bills. ENERGY STAR qualified lighting provides bright, warm light but uses at least 2/3 less energy than standard lighting, generates 70 percent less heat, and lasts up to 10 times longer.

2. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified products

When buying new products, such as appliances for your home, get the features and performance you want AND help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified products in more than 50 product categories, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment, and appliances.

3. Heat and cool smartly

Simple steps like cleaning air filters regularly, installing adequate insulation, and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Use green power

Green power is electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and the sun that don't contribute to climate change. Consider buying green power or modifying your house to generate your own renewable energy. EPA's Green Power Web site provides information on both options.

5. Reduce, reuse, and recycle

Reduce the amount of waste you generate and water you consume whenever possible. Pursue simple water saving actions such as not letting the water run while shaving or brushing teeth. If there is a recycling program in your community, recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper, and other goods. Reducing, reusing, and recycling in your home helps conserve energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing, and disposal.

6. Be green in your yard

Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage that you send to landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. EPA's GreenScapes program provides tips on how to improve your lawn or garden while also benefiting the environment.

7. Calculate your household's carbon footprint

Use EPA's Personal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator to estimate your household greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy use, transportation, and waste disposal. This tool helps you understand where your greenhouse gas emissions come from and identify ways to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

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