



GreenLeap

Global Warming: 10 Simple Things You Can Do!



Switch your Bulbs:

Start using compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). These bulbs will save you money and help reduce your global warming "footprint". Compact fluorescents use approximately 1/4 the energy of normal bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Replacing one incandescent bulb with a CFL saves our atmosphere a 1/2 ton of CO₂ over the bulb's life. If you move to CFLs, don't toss them in the trash when they eventually die. CFLs contain small amounts of mercury and thus must be recycled or properly disposed.



Lower your Electric Bill:

Set a goal of reducing your electric bill by 5%, \$20, or whatever seems reasonable. The mere act of goal setting is amazingly effective at encouraging action awareness -- like turning off those lights. You'll save money too!



Adjust your Thermostat:

Small adjustments in thermostat temperatures can result in substantial energy savings -- turn it up 2 degrees in summer, down 2 degrees in winter. Water heater thermostat adjustments can also make a big difference. U.S. water heaters are typically set at 140°F, yet most households only require a setting of 115°F - 120°F. This easy adjustment can reduce your household energy use 6-13%.



Keep your Tires Inflated & Car Tuned:

Your car's fuel economy drops 1 percent for each pound of pressure your tires are below recommended inflation levels. Keeping your tires properly inflated can mean saving about a tank of gas a year. If cars are regularly maintained, they run more efficiently and therefore use less gasoline. Less gas means reduced CO₂ emissions -- thus less global warming.



Give your Gas Pedal a Rest:

Rapid acceleration and braking can lower gas mileage by as much as 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent in town.



Walk, Pedal, Bus, Train or Tram:

Need we say more? Try riding your bike to work once a week, or walking to your friend's house -- both you and the environment will be healthier for it. Don't forget to consider public transit when evaluating commuting options.



Learn the Facts:

There is still a lot of misinformation and myth floating around. But consensus is our climate is warming. The CO₂ we release is contributing to global warming. Arm yourself with facts and become a climate advocate.



Think Before you Buy:

Do you really need that product you are tempted to buy while browsing? Encouraging you to buy products you initially did not intend to purchase is a well-honed business strategy of many super-stores. We have become great collectors of stuff with short life spans. Will your purchase receive more than a few uses? Is it soon destined for a closet or land-fill? Is the product you are buying produced well? Cheaper in the store doesn't always mean cheaper down the road. Every day low prices may mean you'll be buying a replacement product not long from now. How is the product you are buying packaged? Does it require a team of demolition experts to free it from a plastic enclosure? If so more energy and resources were used than necessary. This translates to more global warming impact. Is the product you are buying sustainably produced? What is the producer's environmental reputation? A paper product? Does it use significant recycled content? Buying a car? Make vehicle mileage a primary buying consideration. Remember to account for fuel costs when pricing vehicle purchases.



Use your Voice:

Make environmentalism a major criterion when you cast your ballot. Government has the ability to enforce significant environmental change. The Endangered Species Act, the healing of ozone hole, the removal of sulfur and soot from energy generation, mileage standards and many more historic environmental success stories were initiated through legislation. If you are not voting, you are not exercising one of your greatest environmental tools. If you are not thinking environmentally when you vote you are abdicating environmental might. You also can help move your workplace to be environmental in its actions: vendor evaluations, purchase decisions, product development, building energy use, recycling. You can also engage your friends and family. Get them listening; talk to them, give them this pamphlet, send them an action E-Card from GreenLeap.com.



Go Renewable:

Moving your home or business to renewable energy is increasingly becoming an option for us all. Some states now offer selection in energy providers. Other states offer energy "certificates" that allow you earmark a portion of your energy bill to electricity providers that use renewable energy sources like solar and wind. You can find certified certificate options in your state at: <http://www.green-e.org>. For you more ambitious homeowners think about adding solar power for heating your water or for your electricity needs.

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