



Climate Smart Tips to Protect the Earth

Did you know that there are six areas of your life in which you can take smart, feel-good actions that will save you money while helping the environment? Some are things that you can do inside your home, others are outside in your yard, when you're at the store, while you're on the road, and even when you're considering major investments. In fact, there are things you can do anywhere and everywhere.

These climate smart money-savers will reduce your use of energy and the resulting emissions of carbon dioxide—a major contributor to global warming—and other atmospheric gases that trap the heat of the Earth. Even if you do only about one-third of the actions on this list, you can reduce your emissions of heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" like carbon dioxide by 12,280 pounds per year.

Today, the United States pumps more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than any other country in the world. Each of us contributes about 22 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, whereas the world average per capita is about 6 tons.

The good news is that there are many ways you and your family can help reduce carbon dioxide pollution and improve the environment for all of us.

Inside Your Home

1. Cut your utility bills by purchasing energy-efficient appliances, fixtures, and other home equipment and products. The average house is responsible for more air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions than is the average car.

- You can reduce your energy consumption by up to 40 percent by purchasing home products that display the ENERGY STAR® label. Most of the ENERGY STAR labels require that products exceed minimum federal standards for energy consumption by 13 to 40 percent, depending on the particular appliance. Look for the label on refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, heating and cooling equipment, televisions, VCRs, and audio equipment. A high-efficiency refrigerator will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 220 pounds a year. A washing machine that uses water and energy efficiently will reduce emissions by 440 pounds a year.



- Buy computers, copiers, printers, fax machines, and other home office equipment that carry the ENERGY STAR label.
- When your lightbulbs burn out, replace them with compact fluorescent bulbs. Converting to energy-efficient lighting fixtures can help you use at least 40 percent less energy for lighting.
- Insulate your home and tune up your furnace. Potential reductions in carbon dioxide emissions: 2,480 pounds per year.

2. Save water and energy use in your home.

- Use low-flow faucets in your showers and sinks.
- Replace toilets with water-saving units.
- Lower the temperature on your hot water tank to 120 degrees.
- Insulate your water heater and all water pipes to reduce heat loss.

3. When you remodel your home or build a new one, incorporate all of these energy efficiency measures—and others.

- If you live in a sunny climate, install a solar thermal system to help provide your hot water. You'll reduce your home's carbon dioxide emissions by 720 pounds a year. Consider installing a solar photovoltaic system to generate electricity.

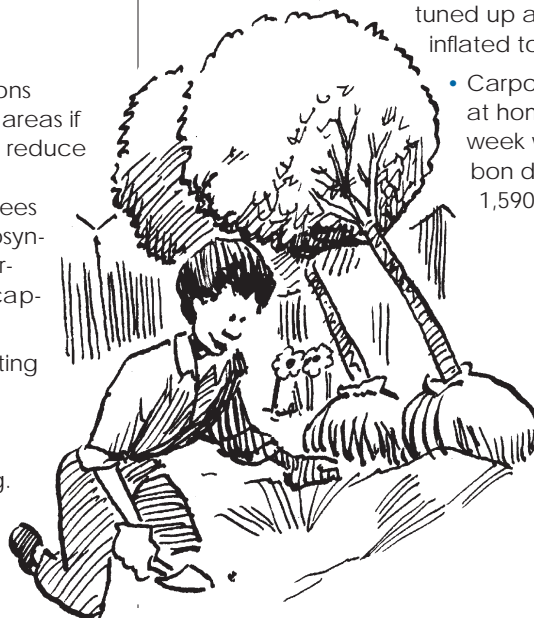
4. Purchase "Green Power" for your home's electricity if available from your utility.

- Green power is electricity that is generated from renewable sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, or biomass. Although the cost may be slightly higher, you'll know that you're buying power from an environmentally friendly energy source.

In Your Yard

5. Revisit your landscaping practices.

- Plant deciduous trees in strategic locations around your home, including easement areas if permitted. The shade the trees cast can reduce your energy consumption. In addition to energy savings, another benefit is that trees store ("sequester") carbon during photosynthesis and can remove 50 pounds of carbon in a year. Design your yard for xeriscaping (plants that require little water).
- Use a composting lawnmower. Composting yard waste on-site reduces the waste stream sent to your community's landfill. Landfills generate a potent gas called "methane" that adds to global warming.
- Using a push mower instead of a power mower will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80 pounds per year.



At the Store

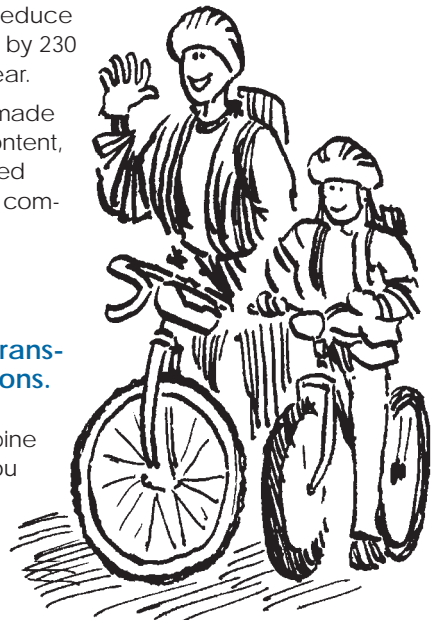
6. Practice wise waste management.

- Recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic, cardboard, and newspapers. Recycling can reduce your home's carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds per year.
- Buy food and other products with reusable or recyclable packaging, or reduced packaging, to save the energy required to manufacture new containers. This simple action could reduce your emissions by 230 pounds per year.
- Buy products made of recycled content, such as recycled paper for your computer printer.

On the Road

7. Rethink your transportation options.

- When running errands, combine trips so that you are not using your car for single-purpose trips.
- Give your car a break—consider transportation alternatives such as public transportation and bicycling or walking to work and for errands.



- When you do drive, keep your car tuned up and the tires properly inflated to save on fuel costs.
- Carpool—leaving your car at home just two days a week will reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by 1,590 pounds per year.
- Telecommute to work, consider "flexiplace" options.

Major Investments

8. Large-ticket purchases can have a major impact on your energy usage.

- Consider purchasing a fuel-smart car—one that gets more miles to the gallon than your current vehicle, and match the vehicle to your needs. The potential carbon dioxide reduction for a car that gets 32 miles per gallon is 5,600 pounds per year.
- Select a home located close to your job to reduce your travel distance and time.
- Take advantage of energy efficient mortgages and loans to make improvements that will save you money.
- When purchasing a new home, look for one with the ENERGY STAR label. These homes offer energy savings as well as a higher resale value.
- Ask your contractor about high-efficiency furnaces, central air conditioners, and other heating and cooling systems that qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. High-efficiency systems can save as much as 40 percent on heating and cooling bills.

Everywhere

9. Educate others.

- Let friends and family know about these practical, energy-saving steps.

Do these few recommendations, and you'll help make a difference for the environment and save money, too.

To Find Out More

ENERGY STAR®: Call 1-888-STAR-YES.

Website: www.energystar.gov

Visit EPA's website on global climate change.

Website: www.epa.gov/globalwarming.

Save Money and Save the Environment: A Consumer Guide to Buying Energy-Efficient Products for the Home (Washington, DC: Consumer Federation of America Foundation, 1999), 202-387-6121.

Website: www.buyenergyefficient.org

Homemade Money: How to Save Energy and Dollars in Your Home (Snowmass, Colorado: Rocky Mountain Institute, 1995). 970-927-3851.

Website: <http://rmi.org/>

Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings (Washington, DC: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, 1998). 202-429-0063.

Website: www.aceee.org/pubs/g6.htm

Green Guide to Cars and Trucks (Washington, DC: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, 1998). 202-429-0063.

Website:

www.aceee.org/greener-cars/index.htm

