

5 WAYS YOU CAN FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

Yes, global warming is a big problem, but we can tackle it if we work together. Everyone has a role to play—you, me, businesses, government. By making different, smarter decisions right now about how we use energy at home, at work and as a nation, we can cut our carbon emissions and curb climate change. Just a few of these practical steps can significantly reduce your carbon footprint (the amount of global warming

pollution you create in your daily life), save money, clean up our air and water, create new jobs and industries and fight global warming—2 percent at a time. That's what it will take to stabilize our climate—a 2 percent reduction in carbon emissions each year for the next 40 years. But to reach our goal of 80 percent reduction by 2050, we all must be part of the 2 percent solution.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

1. DRIVE SMARTER

There are many ways to cut down on your carbon emissions from driving. Hybrids and other highly efficient vehicles emit as little as one third as much CO₂ as a gas guzzler does. Driving smarter by car pooling and making sure your vehicle is well-tuned and has properly inflated tires will also decrease your carbon footprint. Walking or taking public transport when possible makes an even bigger difference.

2. CHANGE A LIGHT BULB, CHANGE THE WORLD

It may sound too good to be true, but if every household in America switched just five light bulbs from standard incandescents to energy-saving compact fluorescents (CFLs) it would be like taking eight million cars off the road. CFLs have come a long way and now come in a variety of styles that fit in regular sockets and give off the same warm light as old-fashioned light bulbs. The bulbs may be more expensive up front, but they last much longer, will save you money on your monthly utility bill.

3. GET HOUSE SMART

Our houses and apartments are gold mines when it comes to solutions that help us use energy more efficiently. Make sure that you always purchase highly efficient EnergyStar appliances and consumer electronics. High-quality, well-sealed windows and doors can minimize the energy you use to heat and cool your house. Using a programmable thermostat and adjusting it by as little as a degree or two can make a huge difference in your energy consumption. Best of all, a variety of local, state, and federal tax incentives and credits exist to help you make the investments to make your home as energy efficient as possible.

4. BUY GREEN POWER

Most utilities across the country now allow their customers to purchase green power generated from renewable sources such as wind and solar. A few dollars a month can mean the difference between power made from dirty coal or power made from carbon-free wind turbines. Visit <http://zoomer.sierraclub.org> and click on efficiency/renewables to find out exactly what's available in your area.

5. REDUCE... REUSE... RECYCLE...

Using less energy to do the same job saves money and cuts carbon emissions. Using recycled materials to produce glass, paper, and metal products saves 70 to 90 percent of the energy and pollution, including CO₂, that would result if the product came from virgin materials. Recycling a stack of newspapers only four feet high will save a good-sized tree. Please... buy recycled products!



AS A COMPANY

1. LET THERE BE LIGHT

Just as at home, it's important for offices to use highly efficient lights like CFLs whenever possible. The design of a lighting system can also make a big difference. Systems that sense when offices are empty and turn the lights off or take advantage of sunny days and dim interior lights accordingly can reduce energy consumption and spending on energy.

2. USE ENERGY-EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

Whether it is computers and copy machines or industrial equipment, using the most energy-efficient equipment makes sense for both companies and the climate. Using less energy means that companies have more money to invest in staff, equipment, and other uses.

3. BUILD GREEN BUILDINGS

Upgrading old buildings and making sure new ones are designed with efficiency in mind can make a difference a big difference in energy consumption. Efficient windows and other construction materials, coupled with innovative climate control and power generation systems, can reap benefits that ensure low energy costs for the life of the building and a healthier climate for everyone.

4. ENCOURAGE SMART TRANSPORT

Companies have two ways to help lower the carbon footprint of work-related transportation. First, they can make sure that they purchase hybrids or other efficient vehicles for their corporate fleets. Second, they can help their employees get to work in a more climate-friendly way by encouraging carpooling and offering vouchers for those who choose to take public transportation.

5. GO CARBON NEUTRAL

Companies can become leaders in the fight against global warming by going the extra mile and pledging to make their operations carbon neutral. Major multinationals have already taken this step, and more are pledging to do so each day.

BE PART OF THE 2% Solution

A SIERRA CLUB CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

FOR MORE TIPS ON HOW TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING AT THE CITY, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS, VISIT:
www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/factsheets/



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