

Ten Things you can do to Reduce Climate Change!

We are experiencing the impacts of climate change caused by human behaviors, primarily burning fossil fuels (gasoline, diesel, coal and natural gas) to produce the energy we use. What can we do?

Transportation

- 1. Drive less.** Consider walking, biking or using public transit before you drive your car. Or if you do drive, try to combine errands or carpool. Do whatever it takes to reduce your time behind the wheel.
- 2. Drive smart.** Keep your car tuned and tires properly inflated. Don't idle when you're stuck in a line or parked for quick stops. About 15 seconds is the break-even point. Avoid "jack rabbit" starts, and on the highway, keep your top speed at about 60 mph.
- 3. Be fuel-efficient.** Not only will you save gas, money and reduce emissions, but driving a fuel-efficient car that gets at least 32 miles per gallon leads to a real reduction in climate pollution. If you drive a diesel vehicle, choose bio-diesel fuel—you will produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions. When you buy a car, make sure it is the right size for your *everyday* needs and that it is the most fuel-efficient and least polluting in its class.

Waste Reduction

- 4. Reduce, reuse and recycle.** It's not just about paper or plastic. Almost every product on the market requires energy to produce and distribute, as well as to manage the resulting waste. Choose pre-owned products, products that have recycled content and products that are sold with less packaging. Businesses can make a big positive environmental impact when they choose to recycle office paper—contact jamiiec@cetonline.org for information. Thinking about sprucing up your home? Visit CET's ReStore Home Improvement Center in Springfield, www.restoreonline.org, for great finds and deals. Consider salvage yards, construction demolition stores and consignment or thrift shops. You never know what treasure you'll find!

Wise Energy Use at Home

- 5. Invest in home energy improvements.** Some electric and gas utility companies offer energy conservation programs and provide excellent financial incentives for eligible home improvements. Visit: www.MassSave.com or call toll free 1-866-527-7283. Low-cost items save money and reduce CO2 emissions: Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; install low-flow showerheads and seal drafty windows and doors. CET offers weatherization and energy efficient lighting products in our offices or visit www.cetonline.org and see how we can help you.
- 6. Stay out of hot water.** Your hot water tank is the second largest user of energy in your home. Set your tank temperature at about 120°F, take shorter showers, use water-efficient washing machines, and wash clothes in cold water. You'll save energy, water and money. Find energy efficient and water conservation products at www.cetonline.org. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label to identify the most energy-efficient appliances, computers, light fixtures and many other electrical conveniences.

7. Get renewables. Renewable energy is an essential component of a responsible energy strategy that reduces pollution and greenhouse gases. CET coordinates the Berkshire Renewable Energy Collaborative to help educate the public through community forums and its web site at www.BerkshireRenewables.org. National Grid customers can support renewable energy through New England GreenStartsm. Join CET's Bio-Heat Coop and get cleaner burning home heating oil that's good for your furnace *and* better for the environment. Learn more at www.cetonline.org.

8. Turn down, turn off and unplug. Lowering your thermostat 5 degrees for 8 hours can reduce your heating bill by 5%. Use programmable thermostats to keep the temperature of your home at 68°F when you're there and 55°F or lower when you're away or at night. Turn off lights in empty rooms and unplug electronics and chargers that aren't in use. Put up a simple clothesline to dry your wash—line-dried clothes really do smell fresher.

Landscaping

9. Cut emissions in your yard. Gasoline mowers are big polluters and greenhouse gas emitters. In one hour, a conventional lawn mower produces as much pollution as 40 late model cars driving for the same amount of time. Try a manual or cordless electric mower or be sure to tune up and maintain your gas mower to run with fewer emissions. Reduce the amount of lawn that you need to mow by planting native species of ground covers, plants and wildflowers, or vegetables. Plant trees for shade, CO2 absorption and improved air quality. Mulch gardens with pesticide-free clippings. Reduce chemical inputs of pesticides and fertilizers. Nitrous oxide, a by-product of nitrogen-based fertilizers is a potent greenhouse gas.

Get Involved....

10. Speak out! You can make a difference. Start by taking the steps above, and let your voice be heard. Contact your local officials and state and federal representatives, as well as your friends, co-workers and business associates. Tell them climate protection matters.



CET is working to reduce climate pollution with education and actions that make sense for our environment, economy and communities. This effort depends on community-wide action; individuals, businesses, schools, commuters, governments; in short, *everybody*.

We invite you and your friends and families to join the effort.

For more information, please visit our web site, or give us a call!

www.cetonline.org

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