

Cool Congregations

25 Steps over \$25 to Reduce Global Warming

Money burning a hole in your pocket? We thought not, but what better way to douse your burning conscience than to invest in any of the below. While the US accounts for only 4% of the world's population, we generate nearly 30% of worldwide CO2 emissions. The good news is we *can* use the smarts of our technologies to bring that percentage down, it just takes an investment on the front end. Meanwhile, we *all* know it's about more than assuaging guilt or spending money, but with payback rates of 5 years or less on most of the below, we think a little fiscal-friendly motivation never hurt anyone.

LIGHTING

1. Replace incandescent lights with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescents. About \$2/bulb.
CO2 reduction: 180 pounds/bulb a year!
2. Replace outdoor incandescent Christmas lights with LED.
CO2 reduction: up to 2300 pounds (10 strings a season).

HOME APPLIANCES / GADGETS

3. Replace old fridge (at least 10 years old) with ENERGY STAR fridge.
CO2 reduction: 2300 pounds a year.
4. Replace less than 10 year old fridge with an ENERGY STAR fridge.
CO2 reduction: 78 pounds a year.
5. Replace old clothes washer (at least 10 yrs old) with new ENERGY STAR clothes washer. CO2 reduction: 850 pounds a year.
6. Replace less than 10 year old clothes washer with ENERGY STAR clothes washer.
CO2 reduction: 475 pounds a year.
7. Replace dryer with ENERGY STAR front load model.
CO2 reduction: 500 pounds a year.
8. Replace less than 10 year old dishwasher with an ENERGY STAR dishwasher.
CO2 reduction: 100 pounds a year.
9. Need a new TV? New VCR? Select an ENERGY STAR model.
CO2 reduction: 65 and 33 pounds a year, respectively.

HOME HEATING AND COOLING

10. Replace AC (9.0 to 12.0 SEER)
CO2 reduction: 185 pounds a year.
11. Insulate your walls and ceilings; this can save about 25% of home heating bills.
CO2 reduction: Up to 2000 pounds a year
12. If you need a new furnace, install ENERGY STAR furnace or boiler.
CO2 reduction: 2000 pounds a year.
13. Yearly furnace tune-up...
CO2 reduction: 300 pounds a year.
14. If you need to replace your windows, install the best energy-saving models
CO2 reduction: Up to 10,000 pounds a year.
15. Plant trees next to your home. Evergreens to the N & W, deciduous trees to the S & W.
CO2 reduction: about 2000 pounds a year.
16. Add air-gap window films to seal leaky windows in winter OR add low-e films.
CO2 reduction: 400 and 380 pounds a year, respectively.
17. Add basement insulation.
CO2 reduction: 750 pounds a year.
18. Seal and insulate warm air heating ducts.
CO2 reduction: 800 pounds a year.

WATER

19. Replace standard electric hot water heater with on demand hot water heater.
CO2 reduction: 3600 pounds a year.
 20. Switch from electric/oil hot water heater to gas hot water heater.
CO2 reduction: 1400 pounds a year.
- OR Switch from an old gas water heater to a new ENERGY STAR hot water heater.
CO2 reduction: 200 pounds a year.

GETTING AROUND

21. When you buy a car, choose one that gets good gas mileage.
CO2 reduction (if your new car gets 10 mpg more than your old one): about 10,000 pounds a year.
22. Buy a hybrid car. Average driver saves \$3750 per year.
CO2 reduction: 16,000 pounds a year.
23. Yearly engine tune-up and maintenance of tire pressure.
CO2 reduction: 1500 pounds a year.

RENEWABLES

24. Add solar hot water heating system.
CO2 reduction: 2000 pounds a year.
25. Install solar electric system to replace 10% of your annual electric needs.
CO2 reduction: 1430 pounds a year.

OTHER / EQUALLY IMPORTANT

- *Urge government leaders to raise mile per gallon standards for cars to 45 mpg and support utility vehicles and other light trucks to 34 mpg. It's one of the biggest steps we take can to control climate change, meaning billions of pounds of CO2 reduction.*
- Consider Green Tags or RECs to 'replace' some of your CO2 emissions. Check out TerraPass or Native Energy on the web.
- Support the development of renewables from your local electric company! (According to the DNR Iowa gets 95% of its energy from the burning of fossil fuels.)
- Reduce waste and promote energy-efficient measures at your school or workplace. Work in your community to set up recycling programs.
CO2 reduction (for every pound of office paper recycled): 4 pounds a year.
- Buy Fresh Buy Local and Buy Organic. The chemicals used in modern agriculture pollute the water supply and require energy to produce.
- Reduce meat consumption and in turn reduce harmful methane gases.
- Invest in businesses using and/or producing alternative energy sources or in other ways addressing climate change issues.

References: Environmental Defense, Rocky Mountain Institute, TenPercentChallenge, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Seattle City Light, The Tides Foundation/StopGlobalWarming.org