Cool Congregations
25 Simple Steps *Under* $25

Who ever said you have to spend a lot of dough or shiver in the cold and dark to better care for the earth? We didn't! We think Mother Nature wants us to be smart *and* comfortable. By using power more efficiently, we reduce our carbon dioxide emissions, thus slowing down the pace of global warming and in turn, save money. Some even use that savings to invest in our second list of "25 over $25." Come on, show Mother Nature you're no dim bulb!

LIGHTING

1. Buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for your most-used lights. About $2/bulb.
   CO2 reduction (by replacing one frequently used bulb): about 180 pounds a year.
2. Turn off unneeded lights.
   CO2 reduction: 380 pounds a year.
3. Replace halogen lamp with compact fluorescent lamp.
   CO2 reduction: 475 pounds a year.
4. Light your Christmas tree with LED lights rather than incandescent.
   CO2 reduction: 122 pounds a season.

HOME APPLIANCES / GADGETS

5. Unplug/dispose of old fridge in basement.
   CO2 reduction: 2500 pounds a year.
6. Line dry clothes in summer.
   CO2 reduction: 780 pounds a year.
   Line dry clothes all year(using indoor clothes drying rack adds benefit of additional humidity in the winter.)
   CO2 reduction: 1400 pounds a year.
   OR use one less dryer load/wk
   CO2 reduction: 200 pounds a year.
7. Cut phantom electric loads in half…buy surge protectors for TVs/stereo and turn off home office equipment when not in use.
   (Phantom loads account for 6% of electric usage in the US).
   CO2 reduction: 500 pounds a year.
8. Run your dishwasher only with a full load. Use the energy-saving setting to dry dishes. Don't use heat when drying.
   CO2 reduction: 200 pounds a year.
9. Use a manual push mower. (Blade sharpening @ Blain's Farm & Fleet $6/blade, ea 2-3 yrs)
   CO2 reduction: 80 pounds a year.

HOME HEATING AND COOLING

10. Ask your utility company for a home energy audit to find out where your home is poorly insulated or energy-inefficient.
    CO2 reduction: Potentially, thousands of pounds a year.
11. Don't overheat or overcool rooms. Adjust your thermostat (lower in winter, higher in summer)
    CO2 reduction (for each 2-degree adjustment): 500 pounds a year.
12. Clean or replace air filters as recommended. Cleaning a dirty air conditioner filter can save 5% of the energy used.
    CO2 reduction: About 175 pounds a year.
13. Install programmable thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures.

CO2 reduction: 600 pounds a year.

14. Caulk and weatherstrip around doors and windows to plug air leaks.
    CO2 reduction: Up to 1350 pounds a year.

WATER

15. Reduce showers time by 5 min/person. (Showers account for 2/3 water heating costs.)
    CO2 reduction: 250 pounds/person a year.
16. Wash clothes in warm or cold water, not hot.
    CO2 reduction (for two loads a week): 500 pounds a year.
17. Turn down your water heater thermostat; 120 degrees is hot enough.
    CO2 reduction (for each 10 degree adjustment): 500 pounds a year.
18. Install low-flow shower heads to use less hot water.
    CO2 reduction: Up to 300 pounds a year.
19. Install faucet aerators.
    CO2 reduction: 20 pounds/faucet a year.
20. Wrap your water heater in an insulating jacket (only if it is over 5 years old)
    CO2 reduction: Up to 1000 pounds a year.

GETTING AROUND

21. Whenever possible walk, bike, carpool or use mass transit.
    CO2 reduction (for every gallon of gasoline you save): 20 pounds.
22. Check the inflation in your auto's tires monthly. Increases fuel efficiency.
    CO2 reduction: 250 pounds a year.
23. Change your auto's air filter according to manufacturer's specifications.
    CO2 reduction: 200 pounds a year

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

24. Reduce waste by recycling: (for every gallon of garbage reduced/wk, you save 100 pounds).
    CO2 Reduction for 10 less gallons/wk: 1000 pounds a year
25. Reduce waste by buying minimally packaged goods; choose reusable products over disposable ones, begin composting, reuse your own cloth grocery bags, buy food in bulk.
    CO2 reduction (if you cut down your garbage by one gallon/wk): 1000 pounds/ year

OTHER / EQUALLY IMPORTANT

- *Urge* government leaders to raise mpg standards for cars to 45 mpg and SUVs and other Light trucks to 34 mpg. It's one of the biggest steps we can take to control climate change, meaning billions of pounds of CO2/yr.
- Consider Green Tags or RECs to 'replace' some of your CO2 emissions. Find Terra Pass 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