

## **25 Simple Steps *Under \$25* For Reducing your Carbon Footprint**

By using power more efficiently, we reduce our carbon dioxide emissions, thus slowing down the pace of global warming and in turn, save money.

### **LIGHTING**

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

### **HOME APPLIANCES / GADGETS**

5. Unplug/dispose of old fridge in basement.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 2500 pounds a year.
6. Line dry clothes in summer. CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 780 pounds a year. Line dry clothes *all year* (using indoor clothes drying rack adds benefit of additional humidity in the winter.)  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 1400 pounds a year.  
OR use one less dryer load/wk CO<sub>2</sub> 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).  
CO<sub>2</sub> 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. CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 200 pounds a year.
9. Use a manual push mower. (Blade sharpening @ Blain's Farm & Fleet \$6/blade, ea 2-3 yrs)  
CO<sub>2</sub> 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.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: Potentially, *thousands of pounds* a year.
11. Don't overheat or overcool rooms. Adjust your thermostat (lower in winter, higher in summer)  
CO<sub>2</sub> 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.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: About 175 pounds a year.
13. Install programmable thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 600 pounds a year.
14. Caulk and weatherstrip around doors and windows to plug air leaks.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: Up to 1350 pounds a year.

## **WATER**

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

## **GETTING AROUND**

21. Whenever possible walk, bike, carpool or use mass transit.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction (for every gallon of gasoline you save): 20 pounds.
22. Check the inflation in your auto's tires monthly. Increases fuel efficiency.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 250 pounds a year.
23. Change your auto's air filter according to manufacturer's specifications.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: 200 pounds a year

## **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

24. Reduce waste by recycling: (for every gallon of garbage reduced/wk, you save 100 pounds).  
CO<sub>2</sub> 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.  
CO<sub>2</sub> reduction (if you cut down your garbage by one gallon/wk): 100 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 CO<sub>2</sub>/yr.
- Consider Green Tags or RECs to 'replace' some of your CO<sub>2</sub> 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. CO<sub>2</sub> 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