





Take Action to Slow the Pace of Climate Change



We all contribute to climate change by using energy produced by fossil fuels, by generating waste, and by other activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



Since we're all part of the problem, we can all be part of the solution.



What *You* Can Do



The solutions are simple:



Use less gasoline, natural gas, propane, coal, and oil, and electricity produced by burning these fuels.



Generate less waste. Reducing waste saves energy and avoids methane emissions from landfills.



What *You* Can Do



 Reduce your carbon footprint.

Most of us don't pay attention to our energy use or how much waste we generate. The next few slides will show you how to change that.



But first, what is your carbon footprint?

Your carbon footprint is a measure of the greenhouse gases that are produced by your activities that involve burning fossil fuels.


Using less energy and reducing waste will help you reduce your carbon footprint.




What You Can Do

Getting To and From School:

 Ride your bike, walk with friends, or use a scooter or skateboard to get to school.

 If your school is too far away or the route is too dangerous, use mass transit (buses, trains) if available.

 If these options are not available, ask your parents to start a carpool so you and your friends can go to school together in one car.



What You Can Do

Getting To and From School:

Students at Montgomery Blair High School in Maryland convinced the local government to provide free bus rides after school, between 2 and 7 p.m.

The “Kids Ride Free” program encourages kids to take public transportation and saves their parents money.



What You Can Do

Getting To and From School:

- Once they have their learner's permits or driver's licenses, many kids think it's no longer cool to take the bus.
- But aren't you more "cool" if you do your part to save the planet?
- If you are able to drive to school, pick up friends along the way.



What You Can Do



Reducing Waste at School:

 Recycle your paper, bottles, and cans.

 Ask your school to consider using recycled paper and other products.

 Ask your school to consider composting food and kitchen waste.

You can do all these things at home too!




What You Can Do



Greening Your School:



Encourage your school to take the ENERGY STAR® Challenge (www.energystar.gov/challenge) to reduce energy use and save money.



Planting a garden on your school's roof keeps the building cooler, reduces energy use, avoids greenhouse gas emissions, and saves money.



What You Can Do

Greening Your School:

Another way to reduce fossil fuel use is to switch to renewable energy sources. Encourage your school to purchase green power generated from the sun, wind, water, and plant materials.



Kids at many U.S. schools have developed renewable energy projects, such as solar cars. You can too!



What You Can Do



Greening Your School:

-  Do you know where your electricity comes from and how it is produced and distributed?
-  Use EPA's Climate CHECK tool (www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/school.html) to estimate your school's emissions and reduce its climate footprint.



What You Can Do

Greening Your Home: *Energy Use*





- Ask your family to replace your light bulbs with ones with the ENERGY STAR[®] label for energy efficiency.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Turn the heat down in winter (and set the A/C temperature higher in summer) to save energy and emissions.



What You Can Do



Greening Your Home: *Electronics*

-  Make sure your computer's energy-saving sleep feature is turned on.
-  Turn off TVs and other electronics when not in use.
-  Unplug MP3 players and cell phone chargers when not in use.
-  Recycle old cell phones and other electronic equipment.



What You Can Do

Greening Your Home: *Water Use*

- Limit water use while you brush your teeth and wash dishes.
- If you do your own laundry, use cold water and only wash full loads.
- Dry your clothes on a clothesline or a drying rack.
- Ask your parents to install faucet and shower aerators that use less water.



What You Can Do





Greening Your Home: Waste

- Recycle magazines, food and beverage containers, and paper.
- Sell or donate old clothing and other items you no longer use.
- Shop for products that use less packaging so there's less waste.
- Bring your own shopping bags with you.



What You Can Do

Greening Your Community:

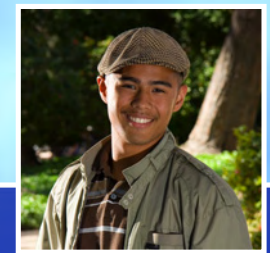
-  If there's no recycling program in your community, help start one.
-  Plant trees. They remove CO₂ from the air.
-  Ask your town or city planner to consider Smart Growth practices.
-  Encourage your town or city to get involved in ENERGY STAR[®] and other programs to save energy.



Last but not least...

Lead by example.

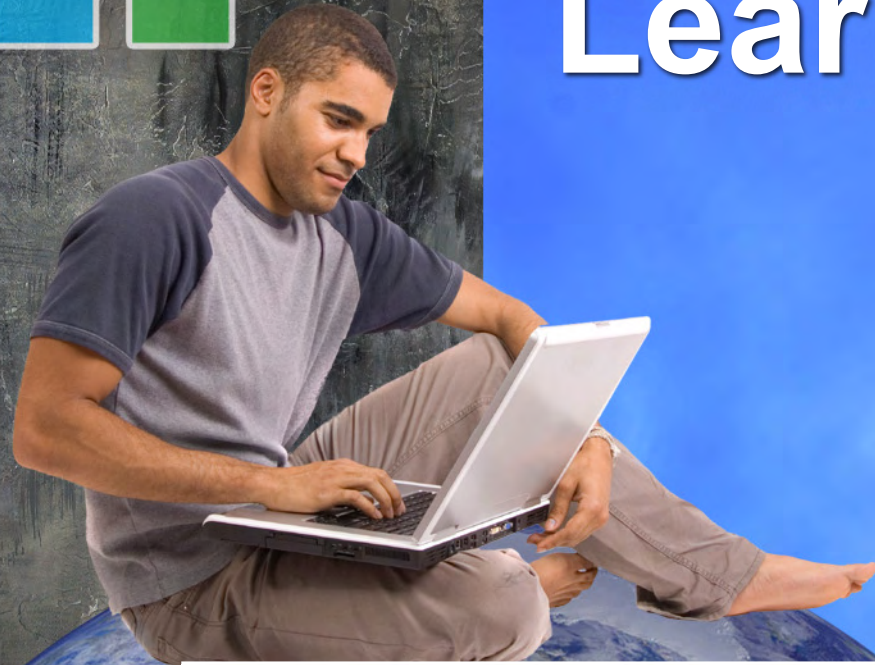
- Take a stand and change your own energy use habits.
- Motivate friends, family, teachers, and others to use less energy and reduce their carbon footprints.
- Become an EPA Climate Ambassador.



With your help, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make our environment safer and more livable for the future.



Learn More...



www.epa.gov/climateforaction

www.epa.gov/climatechange

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/kids>

www.epa.gov/children

www.energystar.gov

www.epa.gov/smartgrowth