

10 Things You Can Do About Global Warming

You'd be surprised at how easy it is to make a big difference

1. Check Your Tires

Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps twenty pounds of carbon dioxide out of our air.

2. Change a Light Bulb

Replacing one light bulb with a compact fluorescent light (CFL) can save \$45 and 785 lbs of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. They're a bargain – they use one third the energy and last ten times longer. New CFLs have been created with warm, pleasing colors for your home.

3. Buy Green Power

Did you know that Puget Sound Energy offers all of their customers the choice to buy electricity from renewable sources? It's easy and it's inexpensive, as little as \$4 a month. *But it is one of the most effective things that you can do today – \$4 a month prevents nearly two tons of Carbon dioxide a year!* Contact a PSE for Green Power. 1-800-562-1482 or www.pse.com/solutions/greenpower_signuphome.aspx

4. Look for the ENERGY STAR Label

Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill, without sacrificing features, style or comfort. Most products that use energy are rated, so next time you buy a computer or a stereo or replace your refrigerator, hot water heater or furnace, look for the label that tells you it will save you money and cut greenhouse gas pollution. www.energystar.gov

5. Buy Locally Grown, Organic Food

Locally grown, organic foods don't have to be trucked long distances, refrigerated for weeks, and don't require nearly as much energy to produce. Plus it's healthier and tastes better!

- Check out and the Bellingham Farmers Market or the grocers who support our local farms.
- To receive a map of local farms go to www.sustainableconnections.org/foodfarming

6. Reduce Idling

Waiting at an espresso stand, in a ferry lane or school zone? *After 30 seconds you've burned more fuel than it would take to restart your car.* Idling gets you 0 miles per gallon. You can reduce pollution and save fuel by turning off your engine.

7. Use a Programmable Thermostat

The EPA estimates that you can save \$150 a year. Why pay to heat and cool when you're not there? A programmable thermostat will shut your heat off when you leave, and warm your home up again before you get back. You might not notice that you've been saving energy . . . until you get your bill.

8. Turn Off Electrical Devices

When you're not using them, turn off or unplug your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer. It will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

9. Make Smart Transportation Choices

Carpool, walk, bike or take the bus a couple of times a week. Or group your errands to save trips. You'll reduce carbon dioxide by a pound for every mile you don't drive. Be rewarded for biking, busing or walking by signing up for Smart Trips: www.whatcomsmarttrips.org/

10. Recycle

Reusing and recycling products means that we don't have to use energy to make new ones. *Recycling alone can reduce your home's carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds per year.* Call the Recycling Hotline at 676-5723 with questions about what to recycle and how.



Local Organizations

Looking to do more to help protect the climate? These are local organizations that are implementing solutions to global warming. They can help you find solutions for yourself, your family or your business; or maybe you could help them by becoming a volunteer or a member:

Sustainable Connections

This network of locally owned, independent businesses is helping promote sustainable business practices among their more than 550 members through programs such as Green Building, Food and Farming, Think Local and more. www.sconnect.org 647-7093

Solar Washington

Solar Washington's mission is to promote the development and effective use of solar and renewable energy and the related arts, sciences, and technologies with concern for the economic, environmental, and social fabric of Washington State through education. There is an active chapter in locally that can help you find clean energy solutions. lightsourceon@comcast.net 360-676-1859 <http://www.solarwashington.org/>

RE Sources

By providing key information, trainings and workshops, and volunteer-led field programs, RE Sources helps community members actively safeguard our environment. Some programs include in-class global warming education for middle schools, recycling education and advocacy the North Sound Baykeeper, Beach Naturalists and the RE Store. www.re-store.org www.re-sources.org 733-8307

The Climate Project

Several members of the community have recently been trained and equipped to present the science of global warming. They are looking for venues and audiences. Katie Fleming at katief@re-sources.org Scott Slabas slabas@comcast.net Ramona Abbott at ramona@essentiallyprofessional.com

The Hub

The Hub Community Bike Cooperative combines alternative transportation with reuse and recycling. The Hub offers self-service shop space for rent, high quality reconditioned bikes, professional full service tune-ups and repairs, and bicycle parts for sale. The Hub reaches out to the greater Bellingham community through a variety of education efforts and events. <http://pedalproject.org> 255-2072

Community Car Share

Car sharing is convenient and helps people to drive less and use alternative and public transportation more. Most members get rid of at least one car, saving money and kicking the maintenance hassle. This local non-profit uses environmentally-conscious vehicles. www.communitycarshare.org 389-6551

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association is dedicated to restoring wild salmon runs in Whatcom County, in part by restoration of habitat. Work crews and volunteers plant and maintain thousands of trees year-round. Among many other benefits, trees in our community sequester and store carbon. There are many work parties every year. www.n-sea.org 715-0283

Climate Solutions

Climate Solutions is a not-for-profit organization that is working regionally to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming by galvanizing leadership, growing investment and bridging divides. Climate Solutions is one of the Northwest's leading source of ideas and inspiration on ways to act decisively and creatively towards addressing the global warming crisis. www.climatesolutions.org 360-352-1763

Building Performance Center

The Building Performance Center is a division of the Opportunity Council and an excellent source for home energy conservation resources. They provide training, consulting and retrofit services. In addition to fee-for-service work, they are able to provide free or reduced fee services for those who are income qualified through the Opportunity Council's Home and Energy Services program. <http://bpc.oppco.org/index.html> Building Performance Center: 676-9718 Opportunity Council's home energy program: 255-2192

