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Personal Response to Global Warming

Tips for how you can take action to turn the tide.

“The uncertainty surrounding climate change argues for action, not inaction. America should lead the way.”

The Economist Magazine, Sept. 9, 2006 <http://tinyurl.com/f3mc3>

What Can I Do?			
Category	Immediate	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Transportation	Never idle car. Use public transit, when possible. Drive less, walk or ride bike more. No private jet flights.	Buy only hybrid, alternative fuel or very low emission cars.	Move closer to work or work closer to home. Advocate for better community planning.
Housing/Work	Turn off unneeded lights Dry clothing in the sun. Adjust thermostats. Install programmable thermostats.	Use only Compact Fluorescent Lights. (CFLs). Insulate hot water heaters. Buy Energy Star/fuel efficient appliances.	Downsize your house. Use green building practices for remodeling or new homes. Advocate for green practices at work.
Food	Serve smaller portions/eat less meat.	Buy local, organic, sustainable.	Grow vegetables & fruit trees
Offset Carbon	Buy Palo Alto Green power Plant a tree in Israel.-8	Purchase green tags Carbonfund.org Or, Cool-it.us	Install solar hot water or photovoltaics

Next steps:

- ❖ Conduct a personal energy or carbon audit.
- ❖ Study options.
- ❖ Select one change to make.
- ❖ Tell a friend and celebrate!
- ❖ Select your next change.
- ❖ Be an informed voter, and VOTE!
- ❖ Contact public leaders and demand action.
- ❖ Speak up at work and worship, to save our planet's climate; all of us need to change.

Source: thehcf.org Hinkle Charitable Foundation, plus additions by MGK/ARK

How Much Will My Emissions Drop?				
Time Frame/ Action	Typical U.S. Household Emissions	% Reduced Emissions	Lbs. of CO2/year	% of Total Household Carbon Dioxide Reduction
Immediate				
Reduce car idling	511	50%	256	0.4%
Turn off unneeded light bulbs	2,700	30%	810	1.1%
Lower furnace and/or increase A/C thermostats, average of 5 degrees/day	17,490	8%	1,312	1.8%
Subtotal Carbon Reductions			2,377	3.4%
Medium Term				
Trade in SUV for hybrid (e.g. Prius)	14,700	66%	9,696	13.7%
Change lights to CFLs	2,700	74%	1,998	2.5%
Insulate hot water heater	1,982	7%	139	0.2%
Subtotal Carbon Reductions			11,833	16.4%
Long Term				
Replace refrigerator to Energy Star	2,170	32%	1,486	2.1%
Replace dishwasher to Energy Star	1,656	54%	756	1.1%
Replace washing machine to Energy Star	2,291	54%	1,055	1.5%
<i>Eliminate stand- alone freezer</i>	2,033	100%	2,033	2.9%
<i>Upgrade air conditioner to Energy Star</i>	7,938	50%	3,969	5.6%
<i>Upgrade furnace to Energy Star</i>	38,370	31%	11,916	16.5%
Subtotal Carbon Reductions (at 25% of italicized items)			5,304	7.5%
Total Carbon Reductions			15,536	21.9%
Trade in car for hybrid (e.g. Prius)	10,226	51%	5,222	7.4%

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists "You Can Prevent Global Warming: 51 Easy Ways" found on thehcf.org