

## You can help to lessen impacts to the environment

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The natural resources of planet Earth are finite and must be conserved for future generations. Do all that you can to leave a small human “footprint.”

- Become educated about global warming and sea-level rise. Recognizing the reality of the problem is the first step.
- Encourage public officials to establish policies and programs that are good for the environment.
- Support the use of solar power and other alternatives to fossil fuels for production of energy.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle. Choose reusable products instead of disposables, such as single-use plastic water bottles.
- Buy products with minimal packaging. Recycling half of your household waste can save 1089 kilograms (2400 pounds) of carbon dioxide annually.
- Use less heat and air conditioning. Setting your thermostat 2°F (lower in winter and higher in summer) can save about 907 kg (2000 lbs) of carbon dioxide per household annually.
- Drive less and drive smart. Bicycle, walk, and use carpools when possible. Buy energy-efficient vehicles.
- Buy energy-efficient products and appliances. If every U.S. family replaced one regular bulb with a fluorescent bulb, it would eliminate 41 million metric tons (45 million tons) of greenhouse gases.
- Use less hot water. Washing clothes in warm or cold water can save more than 227 kg (500 lbs) of carbon dioxide per household annually.
- Hang clothes outside to dry instead of using a clothes dryer. Use a clothesline in your attic, garage, or basement during inclement weather.
- Turn off the lights when they are not needed. Turn off water when you are not using it.
- Plant a tree. A single long-lived tree will absorb over a ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime.
- Landscape with native plants and water sparingly. Use drip irrigation if necessary. Mulched plants require less water.
- Plant a vegetable garden. Use containers if space is limited.
- Reduce use of pesticides, herbicides, and other toxic chemicals and do not apply near water.
- Use reusable bags when shopping for groceries or other items.
- Buy products from sustainable fisheries, including pond-reared fisheries products.
- Obey fishing and hunting regulations.



A single long-lived tree will absorb over a ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime. Use native trees for landscaping to reduce water consumption and use of fertilizers.

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