

Climate Change & You

WHAT YOU CAN DO *at home*

Making a few small changes in your home and yard can lead to big reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and save money.

Resources:

ENERGY STAR
Choose A Light web site:
www.energystar.gov/products/choose_a_light

EPA's Green Power web site:
www.epa.gov/greenpower

Earth911 Recycling web site:
search.earth911.com

EPA's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle web site: www.epa.gov/recycle

EPA's WaterSense web site:
www.epa.gov/watersense

EPA's GreenScapes web site:
www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/greenscaping-easy-way-greener-healthier-yard

EPA's Carbon Footprint Calculator:
www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator

For more information, visit EPA's Climate Change: What You Can Do page on its archived web site:
www.epa.gov/climatechange/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change

1. Change five lights

Replace your five most frequently used light fixtures, or the bulbs in them, with ENERGY STAR qualified options and you will help the environment while saving about \$70 a year on energy bills. ENERGY STAR qualified lighting provides bright, warm light, uses 75 percent less energy than standard lighting, generates 75 percent less heat, and lasts 10 to 50 times longer. See the ENERGY STAR "Choose a Light" web site on the list of Resources to the left.

2. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified products

When buying new products, such as appliances for your home, get the features and performance you want AND help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified products in more than 60 product categories, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment, and appliances.

3. Heat and cool smartly

Simple steps like cleaning air filters regularly, caulking and weather-stripping to reduce air leaks, installing adequate insulation, and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Use green power

Green power is electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and the sun that don't contribute to climate change. Consider buying green power or modifying your house to generate your own renewable energy. See EPA's Green Power web site on the list of Resources to the left for more information on both options.

5. Reduce, reuse, and recycle

Reduce the amount of waste you generate and water you consume whenever possible. Pursue simple water saving actions such as not letting the water run while shaving or brushing teeth. Use recycling programs in your community to recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper, and other goods. Not sure how to recycle something? Find where and how to recycle almost anything using the Earth911 Recycling web site on the list of Resources to the left. Also, see EPA's Recycling and WaterSense web sites on the list for more information, particularly about WaterSense-labeled products that save water.

6. Be green in your yard

Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage that you send to landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. See EPA's GreenScapes web site on the list of Resources to the left for tips on how to improve your lawn or garden while also benefiting the environment. More green ideas for your yard are on the other side of this flyer.

7. Calculate your household's carbon footprint

Use EPA's Carbon Footprint Calculator to estimate your household greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy use, transportation, and waste disposal. This tool helps you understand where your greenhouse gas emissions come from and identify ways to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions. See EPA's Carbon Footprint Calculator on the list of Resources to the left for more information.

Care for Creation at Home

In addition to the steps listed on the other side of this flyer, you can help care for creation in the following ways:

*"...let us be protectors of creation,
protectors of God's plan inscribed in
nature, protectors of one another and of
the environment."*

Pope Francis, March 19, 2013

In Your House: If you live in Maryland, take advantage of the **FREE** services for energy and water saving that are currently being offered by Pepco and BGE. These utilities, through their Quick Home Energy Check-Up program, will come free to your house and bring and install (at **NO** cost) —

- An insulation blanket for your hot water heater and surrounding pipes
- Twelve free energy-saving light bulbs
- Aerators for all your water taps and up to two shower heads with or without hose extenders
- The latest energy saving power strip (a \$40 value)

*If you are a Pepco customer, call Pepco at 1-866-353-5798, press 1, and then press 2 to schedule an appointment to receive these **FREE** services to save both energy and water. If you are a BGE customer, you can sign up for these services at <https://bgsmartenergy.com/residential/quick-home-energy-check>.*

In addition, follow these green tips in your home:

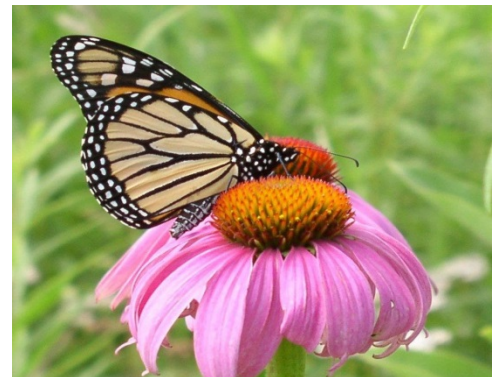


- ✓ Use rechargeable/recyclable batteries around the house.
- ✓ Buy recycled paper for your printer.
- ✓ Recycle plastic bags (many supermarkets have bins to collect plastic bags) or use reusable grocery bags.
- ✓ Use dedicated water bottles that can be refilled instead of buying bottled water.
- ✓ "Pre-cycle" by thinking about recycling before making an initial purchase and select products that lend themselves to reuse and recycling.

On the Road: Encourage your family to combine trips in the car, to carpool, and to use technology to see if a trip will be worthwhile (e.g., calling ahead to see if someone you want to visit is available; seeing if a desired product is in stock at the store) before you go.

In Your Garden or on Your Patio/Balcony: The way we have built homes, streets, offices, and shopping malls in recent decades has significantly reduced habitat for native animals and birds. A special focus of concern is the decline of pollinators (birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects) that ensure that plants are productive and protect our food supply. Take these steps to preserve these crucial contributors to God's creation:

- **Use pollinator-friendly plants** in your landscape. Shrubs and trees such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow, and poplar provide pollen or nectar, or both, early in spring when food is scarce.
- **Choose a mixture of plants** for spring, summer, and fall. Different flower colors, shapes, and scents will attract a wide variety of pollinators. If you have limited space, you can plant flowers in containers on a patio, balcony, and even window boxes.
- **Reduce or eliminate pesticide use** in your landscape. Incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, use them sparingly and responsibly. In particular, avoid pesticides with ingredients such as imidacloprid, acetamiprid, and clothianidin, which have been linked to declines in pollinating bees.
- **Accept some plant damage** on plants meant to provide habitat for butterfly and moth larvae.
- **Provide clean water** for pollinators with a shallow dish, bowl, or birdbath with half-submerged stones for perches. Make sure you change the water every couple of days so your water source avoids mosquitos.
- **Leave dead tree trunks**, also called "snags," in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles.
- **Put up bird houses** on your property.
- **Support land conservation** in your community by helping to create and maintain community gardens and green spaces to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.



Find out more about pollinators at the <http://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/greenscaping-easy-way-greener-healthier-yard> and www.fws.gov/pollinators/pollinatorpages/yourhelp.html web sites.