

# Worried About Climate Change?



## Take Personal Action:

### Drive less, and better

Walk, bike, carpool, take the bus—every gallon of gasoline burned adds 20 pounds of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. When it's time to buy a new car, look for a hybrid or one with a high miles per gallon rating.



### Change a light

Replacing one incandescent light with a compact fluorescent will save 150 lbs. of carbon dioxide per year.

### Adjust your thermostat

Set your thermostat lower in winter and higher in summer to cut your utility bill & reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Make your home more efficient

Get an energy rating, add insulation, update your heating system—all these steps will save you money & protect the planet. See [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov), [energy.alleggheny.edu](http://energy.alleggheny.edu).

## Look for Energy Star

When buying appliances, look for the Energy Star label. These items cost a little more upfront, but will save you money each year.



## Choose green energy

Coal-burning power plants are the single largest source of greenhouse gases in the US. See [www.cleanyourair.org](http://www.cleanyourair.org) for renewable energy options.

## Buy local foods

The average US meal travels 1200 miles from the farm to your plate. Buying locally will save fuel and support local farmers.





## Encourage Community Action:

### Improve your buildings

Urge local cities, schools, and businesses to make their buildings more energy efficient.

### Encourage driving alternatives

Support bike lanes, mass transit, and community carpooling plans.

### Plant trees

Trees provide shade, reducing the need for air conditioning, and absorb carbon dioxide. Plant trees and protect forests, both local & world-wide.

## Influence U.S. Action:

### Raise your voice

Let our elected leaders know you're concerned about climate change. Urge them to support higher fuel economy standards for cars and development of clean energy resources.

### Get out and vote

Solutions to climate change require a strong commitment from our government. Learn where candidates stand on global warming, and vote for leaders with a strong track record on this issue.

### Work together

Join with national groups working to combat climate change. To get started, check out the Sierra Club ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)), the Natural Resources Defense Council ([www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)), the Union of Concerned Scientists ([www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)), and the Alliance for Climate Protection ([www.allianceforclimateprotection.org](http://www.allianceforclimateprotection.org)).



**The Commonwealth  
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(814) 332-2986  
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