

11 Simple Things *(you can do to reduce greenhouse gas pollution)*

When you reduce energy consumption by using it less or more efficiently, or use renewable energy, you lower the demand for gasoline, oil, coal, and natural gas. Burning less of these fossil fuels produces fewer emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the major contributor to global warming.



ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT AND MAINTAIN YOUR HEATING AND A/C

Almost half of the energy we use in our homes goes to heating and cooling. Lower your thermostat two degrees in the winter and raise it two degrees in summer, saving about 2,000 lbs. of carbon dioxide each year. Change your filters on a regular schedule, and perform recommended routine HVAC systems maintenance. More details at www.aceee.org/consumer.



GET A HOME ENERGY AUDIT - INSULATE AND WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME

You can perform a simple energy audit yourself, or have a professional energy auditor carry out a more thorough audit. Learn more about home energy audits at www.energysavers.gov/your_home/energy_audits. Did you know that shade trees can reduce your A/C bill by 10 - 15%?



USE ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING, APPLIANCES AND OTHER PRODUCTS

Making your home more energy efficient with ENERGY STAR can help to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort, and help to protect the environment. Learn more about Energy Star products at www.energystar.gov. Check out www.shopIPL.org to receive congregational discounts and to order energy efficient products, including Sears appliances.



THINK GLOBALLY, EAT LOCALLY AND REDUCE MEAT CONSUMPTION

The average U.S. food product travels 1500 to 2500 miles to get to your table. Buying locally supports our state's economy. Cutting back on beef and pork could wipe \$20 trillion off the cost of fighting climate change. Find your local slow food chapter at www.slowfoodusa.org. Download the guide **Repairing Eden** at www.greenfaith.org and use it at your house of worship. Involve your faith community in Come to the Table, a project of the NC Council of Churches, which is working to create a food system that feeds our communities, supports farmers and farmworkers, and fosters a connection to the land. Visit www.cometothetablenc.org.



DRIVE LESS AND WHEN PURCHASING A CAR BUY THE LEAST POLLUTING AUTOS

Walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit more often. Automobile emissions account for more than 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions each year. Search for automobiles and compare green car ratings at www.epa.gov/greenvehicles.



North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
a program of the NC Council of Churches
www.ncipl.org ▪ info@ncipl.org



27 Horne Street
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 828-6501



REDUCE WASTE - REUSE AND RECYCLE MORE - REDUCE CONSUMPTION

Shop with re-usable bags. Look for products that use less packaging material. Did you know that recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours - or the equivalent of half a gallon of gasoline? Find recycling centers at www.earth911.org.



USE LESS HOT WATER AND INSULATE YOUR WATER SUPPLY LINES

It takes lots of energy to heat water. Keep your water heater at 120°. Use less by installing low flow showerheads and faucets and washing clothes in cold or warm water.

Learn more at www.energysavers.gov/your_home/water_heating.



TURN OFF ELECTRONIC DEVICES (AT A POWER STRIP IF POSSIBLE)

Even when turned off, things like hairdryers, cell phone chargers and televisions use energy. The energy used to keep display clocks lit and memory chips working accounts for 5 percent of total domestic energy consumption!



PURCHASE NC GREENPOWER AND CARBON OFFSETS

For each \$4 block of NC GreenPower added to your utility bill, 100 kWh's of clean energy is fed into the electric grid, replacing 100 kWh's of fossil fuel power. Your contribution may be tax-deductible! To learn more go to www.ncgreenpower.org. You can also consider purchasing carbon offsets for your home and travel-related energy use. One example of a locally-based carbon offset program can be explored at www.wncgbc.org/offset.



SUPPORT REFORESTATION EFFORTS THROUGH IPL'S CARBON COVENANT

Interfaith Power & Light and our partner faith communities are directly addressing the number one source of carbon emissions in the developing world: deforestation. We are protecting forests from illegal logging and poaching; promoting alternative, sustainable livelihoods; and reforesting degraded lands. Learn more at www.co2covenant.org.



GET INVOLVED IN NC IPL AND PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

Join NC IPL to stay informed on issues and events, and learn how to encourage legislation and regulation that promotes conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Sign up at <http://ncipl.kintera.org/join>. Visit the Faith in Action section of our website, www.ncipl.org.

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES AND SOURCES

www.theregenerationproject.org • www.energysavers.gov/your_home • www.climatecrisis.net
www.recycling-revolution.com • www.newscientist.com/topic/climate-change • www.greenfaith.org