BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCY:
A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Taking small steps toward reducing your carbon footprint in your home will benefit both you and our environment. Not only are there personal financial benefits to reducing the carbon footprint of your home, but you're also building resiliency in the face of our changing climate.

In-home ways to reduce carbon footprint:

- Reduce trash by recycling and using less disposables.
- Go paperless on your bills.

A lot of banks and utility companies actually credit your account for going paperless.

- Use cloth grocery bags instead of plastic.
- Change from plastic single use water bottles to reusable aluminum or glass—or even recycled plastic.
- Plant trees and native vegetation in your yard or in your community.
- Change your light bulbs to LEDs when they burn out.
- Change your thermostat to be a little cooler in the winter and a little warmer in the summer—especially at night and when you're not home.

You can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7 to 10° F for 8 hours a day from its normal setting.[1]

- Use efficient appliances.
  - Replace broken appliances with new Energy Star rated models. Over the course of the average Energy Star rated refrigerator's 13-year lifespan, it will emit 1,661 pounds of CO_2 less than an average conventional mode.[2]
  - Enable computer's sleep function and power off computers and other electronics when not in use.
  - Use cold water wash and rinse settings when washing clothes. Using the cold wash setting instead of the hot wash setting can save up to 4.2 kilowatt hours of energy and 64 cents per load.[3]
- Consider your travel.
  - Drive fewer, unnecessary miles by doing errands in one trip.
  - Perform regular vehicle maintenance.
  - Consider walking or riding a bike instead of driving a vehicle.
  - Consider a fuel-efficient hybrid or all-electric when purchasing a new vehicle.
    - The national average is 4,815 pounds of CO_2-equivalent emissions for a typical electric vehicle per year as compared to the average gasoline-powered car which produces 11,435 pounds of CO_2-equivalent emissions annually.[4]

Sources

1 "Thermostats." Energy Saver, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, energy.gov/energysaver/thermostats. Accessed December 2019.

2 "Buildings & Plants." Energy Star, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, energystar.gov/buildings. Accessed December 2019.

3 "Washing laundry in cold water protects a lot more than just our clothing." Cold Water Saves, American Cleaning Institute, The Sustainability Consortium, coldwatersaves.org. Accessed December 2019.

4 "Fact #950: November 7, 2016, Well-to-Wheel Emissions from a Typical EV by State, 2015." Vehicle Technologies Office, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, energy.gov/eere/vehicles/fact-950-november-7-2016-well-wheel-emissions-typical-ev-state-2015. Accessed December 2019.