

Ten things we can do to reduce Greenhouse Gas pollution

(A guide for those who cannot count)

Not in any particular priority order.

- 1. Support and lobby for government initiatives to increase energy conservation.** A significant way to avert global warming is to use the vast technological capability to conserve energy.
- 2. Lobby for and support government initiatives to greatly expand public transit.** Transportation is responsible for about 25% of our greenhouse gas pollution, the use of public transit can reduce this dramatically.
- 3. Walk and bicycle more.** Good for the environment, good for your health. Support and lobby for government initiatives that enhance walking and cycling.
- 4. If you must drive, use fuel-efficient vehicles.** And, lobby governments to implement significant mandatory fuel efficiency improvements, and incentives for the purchase of fuel efficient vehicles.
- 5. Have your home audited** to identify energy saving measures. A typical house produces 8 - 10 tonnes of CO₂ a year from the gas, oil or electricity that are used to heat it. This energy use can typically be reduced dramatically. Even better, buy a smaller home. The average home is now twice the size of homes in the 1960s, yet families are smaller.
- 6. Use efficient appliances.** Old clothes washer uses twice the energy of newer efficient front-loaders. The same applies to fridges, dryers, dishwashers and water heaters. By switching to Energy Smart appliances and efficient lights, and installing programmable thermostats, you could save 4-5 tonnes of CO₂ a year. And, use fluorescent instead of incandescent light bulbs
- 7. Make sure things are really turned off.** TV's, computers, stereos and video game units all draw power, even when turned off. By attaching your electronic devices to power bars & turning them off when not in use, you'll help reduce your impact on the environment.
- 8. Support government incentives for the development of renewable energy.**
- 9. Support the protection of threatened forests and the use of ecosystem sensitive forestry practices.** Bad forestry practices release large amounts of greenhouse gas pollution, good sustainable ecosystem based forestry practices can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect biodiversity.
- 10. Buy locally grown foods;** the average item on our plates travel 1,000s of kilometers away and the transportation, packaging and processing are all energy intensive. A 2005 study in Toronto found that locally produced food items at a local farmers' market travelled an average of 101 km, equivalent imported items moved an average of 5364 km.
- 11. Eat less meat:** growing animals for meat is more energy and water intensive than growing grains and vegetables.
- 12. Lobby for your Union, business, workplace to become 'green' by reducing their greenhouse pollution.** For example, use video conferencing instead of flying, if you must fly buy carbon offsets so that the travel will be carbon neutral, when meals are catered insist on locally grown food, and have your buildings audited for energy use.