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## Other Energy Saving Measures You Can Take

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### Save Electricity:

A lot of the electricity is produced by burning non-renewable fossil fuels. As our demand for electricity increases, so does the rate at which power plants need to burn these fuels. Burning fossil fuels to produce electricity is a primary source of greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Stop window drafts by caulking gaps or adding weather stripping.**  
By draft proofing your home with caulking and weather stripping you can reduce your home heating needs by up to 20% and reduce GHG emissions by up to a half ton. You can locate window drafts by spotting condensation, feeling with a moistened finger or by using draft detectors.
- **Turn off lights in a room that is not in use.**  
Turning off one 60-watt bulb for one hour per day when not needed can save up to 0.19 ton a year.
- **Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact florescent light bulbs.**  
Compact florescent light bulbs last up to ten times longer and use one quarter of the electricity of a standard incandescent light bulb. Replace 5 standard incandescent light bulbs in your home with compact florescent light bulbs and you could reduce your GHG emissions by 1/5 of a ton.
- **Keep the fridge door closed as much as possible. Check for air leaks around the fridge door.**  
You can check the door seal of a refrigerator by using piece of paper. The paper should be held tightly closed door at any point around perimeter to see if there are air leaks. However, the biggest leaks from a fridge occur when you leave it open! A good idea is to think ahead about what you will be taking out or putting into the fridge, so that the door is not ajar unnecessarily.
- **Turn off the computer when it is not in use or at the end of the day**  
Ensure your computer system is set up to use its energy-saver option, which can save you 1/20 ton. Turning off a computer at night can save up to 0.2 ton. If you have the choice, use a laptop computer instead of a desktop computer because it can use up to 90% less energy.
- **Take advantage of window coverings and curtains to save on energy.**  
During the summer, keep blinds, curtains and windows closed to help keep your home cooler. Consider keeping curtains open during winter days will allows passive solar energy into your home while closing the curtains in the evening helps keep out the cold air.

## Water Spy:

Wasting water wastes electricity. This is because water treatment and supplying water requires vast amounts of energy and much of that energy comes from the burning of fossil fuels.

- **Stop unnecessarily running water.**  
Don't run water unnecessarily at a water fountain, when washing dishes or brushing your teeth. Save up to 25 liters per minute by turning off the water when brushing your teeth.
- **Take a quick shower instead of a bath.**  
Heating of water can account for 1/4 of your home's energy use. Shorter showers use less hot water. A five-minute shower uses up to 50% less hot water than a bath.
- **Have a low flow shower.**  
Save up to 0.4 ton of GHGs per year by installing a low flow showerhead or keeping the shower flow at a low volume. This is because a low flow shower head uses up to 60% less water.
- **Turn off taps tightly and check that they are not dripping.**  
A faucet that leaks enough to fill a soda bottle in a half hour will waste about 8,000 liters of water per year.
- **Wash in warm water and rinse in cold water.**  
You can save 50% less energy by using warm water rather than hot water when washing clothes. Clothes rinsed in cold water come out just as clean.
- **Water grass and flower beds early in the morning.**  
To stay green and healthy, most lawns and gardens only need 2 to 3 cm of water per week. The air temperature rises during the day resulting in more water evaporation. Also, 50% of the water from a sprinkler evaporates before hitting the ground.

## Fueling Change:

The greenhouse gas that contributes most to climate change is carbon dioxide. This is because many of our human activities produce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in huge quantities. For example, every gallon of gasoline we use to operate a vehicle emits carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere.

1. **Walk, cycle, in-line skate, carpool or take public transit as an alternative to using private motor vehicles.**  
Driving 10% less by walking, cycling, carpooling or taking public transit, can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to half a ton per year, depending on the vehicle. Have fun with your friends, and you will be getting exercise and fresh air. No more sitting in traffic.
2. **Avoid using gas-powered lawn mowers, leaf blowers and pressure washers.**  
Push mowers, rakes, and brooms save electrical or fossil fuel energy and using your own energy is good for your health.
3. **Avoid using the air conditioner in your car, opening the window can be very effective a lot of the time.**  
An air conditioner can account for as much as 1/5 of your car's fuel consumption during stop and go traffic.

4. **Plan trips in advance so that errands can be combined.**  
Transportation is responsible for 50% of GHG emissions, and vehicle exhaust can account for up to 2/3 of smog producing pollutants.
5. **Ask friends and family who pick you up for a ride to turn off the vehicle's engine when they are waiting for you.**  
Reduce idling - if every California motorist avoided idling their vehicles for just five minutes a day, all year, more than 930 million tons of carbon dioxide would be prevented from entering the air.
6. **Compost organic kitchen waste.**  
Organic waste, such as fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, etc., as well as leaf and yard waste, when properly composted, are transformed into valuable fertilizer for your garden. If organic waste is sent to landfills, it produces methane gas, a potent GHG, because, when it is buried, it breaks down where no oxygen is present. If your family composts, you will slow the growth of landfills, and reduce your GHGs by more than 1/8 ton a year.
7. **Don't buy disposable items that are used once and then thrown away.**  
Buying items that can be reused helps to save energy that is needed to manufacture, package and send them to market. Not buying disposable items helps to reduce the amount of landfill space needed.
8. **Recycle everything that you can - newspapers, paper products, plastics, glass and cans.**  
Studies show that about 70% of the household waste we put out for disposal could be either recycled or composted. It takes half as much energy to recycle newspapers as it does to make new newsprint.
9. **Give your dishwasher a rest. Save on both water and energy by washing and drying dishes by hand.**  
If you fill up half of one side of the sink with soapy warm water and the other side with rinse water, you use only half as much water as most dishwashers. If you choose to use the dishwasher, make certain it is full and that you select the no-heat or air-drying cycle.
10. **Take cloth bags or re-use old grocery bags when you go shopping.**  
Reduce GHGs produced in the production of plastic bags, that are made from oil or natural gas and which, once used, may end up in a landfill. Remember, it takes one 15-year-old tree to produce 700 paper bags. Try to buy products that do not have excess packaging.
11. **Use a microwave to warm up small amounts of food.**  
Microwave ovens use about 50% less energy than conventional ovens. However, for larger amounts of food, conventional ovens are more efficient.