

CLIMATE CHANGE

TAKE ACTION

All Canadians contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

In fact, the actions of individual Canadians account for about 28% of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions. That's almost six tonnes per person per year – enough to fill six two-story houses! Every time we turn on a light, hop in the car, start up a computer, or do anything that uses energy, we are responsible for producing greenhouse gases.

But if we're part of the problem, we also can be part of the solution. At home, on the road, and at work, there are simple things all Canadians can do to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions – and save energy and money in the process!



At home

Your living space

- All of the cracks and gaps in the average house, added together, are equal to a 1.5 square foot hole. Using caulking and weatherstripping to seal all leaks around doors, windows, and cracks where heat escapes from your home can save up to 20% on your heating bill.
- Insulate when you renovate your home. Over the years, a small up-front cost can pay for itself several times over in energy savings.
- Get a home energy audit: visit <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/houses> to find out how.
- Use an automatic set-back thermostat for your home's heating and air conditioning.
- Clean your furnace filter regularly to ensure good airflow and keep your furnace properly tuned.
- Install low-flow showerheads and fix leaky or dripping faucets to conserve hot water.
- Recycle or compost as much as possible to reduce solid waste going to landfills.

Appliances

- Get rid of that old fridge! An inefficient refrigerator with an ill-fitting door can cost hundreds

of dollars a year to operate. A new, more efficient refrigerator will consume less energy and provide many new features.

- When buying that new refrigerator, or any household appliance, check the EnerGuide label to help you select the most energy-efficient model that meets your needs.



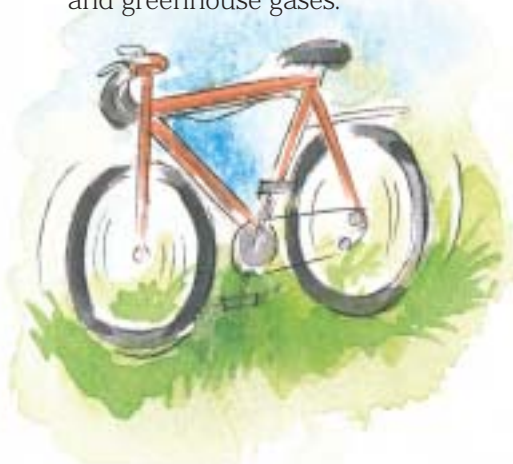
- Almost all of the energy used by clothes washers is for heating water. Only about 10 per cent or less is actually used by the electric motor that runs the machine. Use cold water whenever you can to improve your clothes washer's efficiency.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full. Let dishes air-dry rather than using the dishwasher's drying cycle.

Climate Change. Are you doing your bit?

- Microwave cooking can reduce energy consumption by two-thirds and produces much less waste heat than your stove.
- Use energy-efficient lighting products such as compact fluorescent bulbs. They last 10 times longer and use 75% less energy than regular incandescent light bulbs.

On the road

- Leave the car at home whenever you can. Walk or bike for short trips; for longer trips, take the bus. One busload of passengers takes 40 vehicles off the road, saving 70,000 litres of fuel, 175 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and nine tonnes of pollutants per year.
- Avoid idling your vehicle. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel that restarting your engine and produces more air pollution and greenhouse gases.



- When buying a new vehicle, consider its fuel efficiency. Check the EnerGuide label for information on the vehicle's city and highway fuel consumption, and estimated annual fuel cost.

- If you are buying a used vehicle, consult the Fuel consumption Guide for that model year. The Guide provides consumption ratings for cars, vans and light-duty trucks sold each year in Canada. To order a free copy, call 1 800 O-Canada, or visit the Office of Energy Efficiency web site at <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca>
- Keep to the speed limit. Driving at 100 km/h burns 10 per cent more fuel than driving at 90 km/h. On the highway, use cruise control to maintain a steady speed and reduce fuel consumption.

At work

- Turn all equipment off when not in use, including computers, photocopiers, cash registers, and coffee machines, particularly overnight and on weekends.
- If your computer has integrated power management capabilities, ensure the system is configured to use them. If printers and photocopiers have an energy-saver mode, make sure it is operating (machines are often shipped with this feature disabled).
- Use as little paper as possible. Printing, photocopying, and faxing



all use energy. Communicating electronically through e-mail and fax/modems is quicker, less expensive, more productive, and healthier for the environment.

- Print and copy on both sides of the page. Double-sided printing or photocopying reduces paper costs, saves filing space, and minimizes the amount of energy and fibre required for paper production.
- Use recycled paper (including unbleached paper) whenever possible.
- Turn off lights when a work area isn't being used – or, even better, don't turn them on in the first place! Natural light saves energy and is easier on the eyes. Open the curtains and blinds to bring more natural light into your work area.

Want to know more about climate change?

Visit the Government of Canada climate change Web site at:
www.climatechange.gc.ca
 or call toll-free: 1 800 O-Canada
 (1 800 622-6232)
 or TTY 1 800 465-7735 and ask
 for a climate change information kit.

Canada

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