

Significant Steps to Reduce Our Energy Use

To significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, it is useful to know what actions have the greatest impact. See [High-Impact Energy Savings](#) for more details.

AREA OF ENERGY USE	HIGH-IMPACT ACTIONS	Percent of Energy Footprint Reduction*
<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Drive 2000 miles less/year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Take a bus, walk, bike; work or meet remotely. * Carpool to work, your house of worship. * Drive a high MPG or electric vehicle. * Fly 3000 miles less/year. 	up to 22%
<input type="checkbox"/> SWITCH TO SOLAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Install a 3000- or 4000-Watt PV system. * Install a solar attic fan &/or water heater. 	up to 13.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> THERMOSTATS, HVAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Install—and use—a programmable thermostat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Set back thermostat 2° F both winter & summer. * Set back thermostat more when away & at night. * Have HVAC system professionally serviced 2x/year. * Shut off heat to a room in winter. * Replace furnace with high-efficiency model/type. 	up to 11%
<input type="checkbox"/> BUY LESS STUFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reduce your purchase of new clothing, furnishings. * Carry <i>reusable</i> bottles (cold/hot) & shopping bags. * Reduce residential remodeling. 	up to 8%
<input type="checkbox"/> WATER/WATER HEATERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Take shorter showers. * Set water heater to 120° F. * Insulate hot-water supply pipes. * Install faucet/shower flow restrictors. * Switch from natural gas to electric water heater. * Switch to an on-demand water heater. 	up to 6%
<input type="checkbox"/> LAUNDRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Air-dry clothes year-round. * Wash full loads, using cold water. 	up to 5.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> SEAL & INSULATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increase attic insulation to 14"; sealing gaps. * Seal air leaks at windows, doors & fireplace. * Seal warm air ducts, add wall insulation. 	up to 4.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> FOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eliminate meat at least 2x/week. * Plan menus and shop to waste less food. * Eat a mostly vegetarian or vegan diet. 	up to 3.5%
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIANCES, LIGHTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Replace all remaining incandescent light bulbs. * Install timers on exhaust fans. * Replace inefficient pre-1993 refrigerator/dishwasher. * Reduce need to mow lawns: replace with native plants, bushes & trees. 	up to 2.8%

*Percentages saved depend on how many of the suggested actions a household takes.