

Save Energy at Home – Excerpts from “An Inconvenient Truth” by Al Gore

1. Choose energy-efficient lighting and appliances when making new purchases
2. Properly operate and maintain your appliances
3. Heat and cool your house efficiently
4. Insulate your house
5. Get a home energy audit; visit www.energyguide.com for an energy audit
6. Conserve hot water; set your hot water tank no higher than 120 degrees.
7. Reduce standby power waste; many appliances like tv's, use power when they are turned off.
8. Improve the efficiency of your home office; use the low-power mode on your computer
9. Switch to green power; use renewable power sources such as sun, wind or biomass.

Get Around on Less

1. Reduce emissions from cars and other forms of transportation; use small cars and hybrids
2. Reduce the number of miles you drive by walking, biking, carpooling or taking mass transit wherever possible
3. Drive smarter; avoid commuting in the rush hour; don't speed; combine errands into one trip
4. Make your next vehicle purchase a more efficient one; use fuel efficient cars and hybrids
5. Use alternative fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel and fuel cells
6. Telecommute from home and save time and miles
7. Reduce air travel; take vacations nearer to home; use train, bus or boats.

Consume Less, Conserve More

1. Reduce emissions by consuming less and conserving wisely
2. Buy less; everything you buy must be manufactured and transported by energy.
3. Buy things that last; choose durable items over disposable ones; repair rather than discard
4. Pre-cycle – reduce waste before you buy; buy in bulk; avoid extraneous wrappers
5. Recycle paper, glass, steel, aluminum and plastic. Recycling takes less energy.
6. Don't waste paper; limit use of paper towels and use cloth rags. Stop unwanted junk mail.
7. Bag your groceries and other purchases in a reusable tote bag.
8. Compost; organic waste in landfills gives off methane, the most potent of the greenhouse gases; when organic waste is properly composted in gardens, it produces rich nutrients that add food to the soil.
9. Carry your own refillable bottle for water or other beverages; avoid disposable cups.
10. Modify your diet to include less meat; it takes far more fossil fuel to produce meat than plant sources.
11. Buy local; this reduces CO2 emissions from transporting those goods.
12. Purchase carbon offsets to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions

Be a Catalyst for Change

1. Learn about climate change; visit www.weathervane.ftt.org or www.environet.policy.net
2. Let others know; tell you friends about climate change; tell them what they can do to reduce energy.
3. Encourage your school or business or place of worship to reduce emissions and energy
4. Vote with your dollars; support green industries; make negligent companies aware of your objections.
5. Consider the impact of your investments have on climate change.
6. Take political action; individuals can make a difference by pressuring their elected representatives
7. Support an environmental group and get involved; a few to start with are: Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and Environmental Defense.