

Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Here are some activities you, your friends, and family may already be doing or can do to reduce your carbon footprint.

Save Water

- Turn the water off while you are brushing your teeth. Do not let it run continuously.
- Have a short shower instead of a bath. It uses less water. When bathing, be sure not to overfill the tub.
- When washing or shaving, fill the sink partially and use that water rather than running the tap continuously.
- Ensure that you turn the taps off tightly to avoid dripping.
- Do not let the water run continuously. Wash dishes or clean fruit and vegetables in a partially filled sink; then, rinse them quickly under the tap.
- Instead of letting the tap run until the water gets cold, keep a jug of drinking water in the refrigerator.
- Wait until you have a full load to run the dishwasher or washing machine.
- Install water-reducing attachments to faucets and showerheads to reduce water use.

Save Energy

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Use the energy saver option or shortest cycle necessary on appliances.
- If possible, line-dry your clothes outside in the summer.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with more energy-efficient, longer-lasting fluorescent bulbs.
- For small meals, use the microwave instead of heating up the oven.
- Turn the temperature on your water heater down. Most homes do not need extremely hot water.
- Ensure that windows and door frames are sealed properly to avoid heat or cool air from escaping.

Reduce Waste

- Ensure that your household is recycling.
- Re-use plastic grocery bags the next time you go shopping instead of bringing new ones home, or use them as garbage bags. Better yet, buy or make cloth shopping bags that can be used over again.
- Cardboard boxes and paper bags can be used to store things or to pack items for your next move.
- Re-use items. Save items that you will use again, such as wrapping paper, gift boxes and bags, string, rubber bands, and twist ties.
- Books and magazines can be donated to hospitals, senior citizens' residences, and schools.
- Buy in bulk to reduce waste.
- Purchase products and services from companies that are environmentally conscious.
- Purchase products that have been recycled or are recyclable. Watch for reusable, recyclable, or returnable packages.