

10 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Our coastlines are under siege from the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels and more powerful storms are shrinking our beaches and diminishing the public's ability to enjoy these special places. The pollution from fossil fuels is altering ocean chemistry and this ocean acidification threatens marine life and entire ecosystems. The good news is that solutions to these problems are within our grasp. Small changes to our everyday habits can slow down, and possibly reduce, the harmful effects of carbon dioxide being released into our atmosphere.



1. Drive Less and Use Mass Transit

Whenever possible, try to carpool, use mass transit, walk or bike to destinations. Purchase a low carbon vehicle and drive at the speed limit. Speeding can reduce gas mileage by up to 33%. Be sure your tires are properly inflated—which can improve gas mileage by up to 3%.¹



2. Plant an Ocean Friendly Garden

Ocean Friendly Gardens conserve water and filter pollutants before they make their way to the ocean. They also reduce hard surfaces in our neighborhoods, trap greenhouse gasses and build healthy ecosystems that weather storms better.



3. Buy Less Plastic

Plastic is made from petroleum products (i.e. fossil fuels) and take a tremendous amount of energy to create and dispose of. It is estimated that 29% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions result from the manufacturing and final disposal of plastic goods.²



4. Help Influence Policy Change

Work with Surfrider staff and chapters to advocate for the proactive planning and building of climate change resilient communities.



5. Upgrade your light bulbs

Replace incandescent light bulbs with more efficient fluorescent or LED lights.



6. Monitor Your Thermostat

Not too high and not too low! Set your thermostat to 72 degrees and program your air conditioner or heater to vacation mode when you are not home. Weatherproof your home to reduce drafts and air leaks by caulking, using insulation and weather stripping to save energy.



7. Advocate for Alternatives

Purchase energy efficient appliances if you are in the market to replace an older appliance. If possible, add solar panels to the roof of your home and advocate for fossil fuels alternatives.



8. Eat Locally Produced Food

13% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are directly related to food production, transportation and disposal.³



9. Cut Down on Water Usage

Water use is energy intensive. Installing drip irrigation in your garden and purchasing water efficient appliances will help cut down on your water usage.



10. Reuse, Recycle and Upcycling

Give products another chance. Whenever possible, buy used products, resell, recycle or upcycle items that you no longer use.

1) <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp>

2) <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/climate-change-waste/>

3) <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/climate-change-waste/>

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PROTECT OUR OCEAN, WAVES AND BEACHES,
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