

Twenty One Things You Can Do

to Decrease Your Input to and Get Ready for a Changing Climate

To decrease contribution to climate change:

1. Use energy efficiently – buy energy star products (light bulbs & appliances), turn off and unplug electronics when not in use
2. Weatherize your home and use drapes for the windows (keeps heat in winter, keeps sun/heat out in summer)
3. Purchase clean/renewable energy sources from your electricity provider, or install a renewable energy system
4. Drive a fuel efficient vehicle, carpool, and avoid unnecessary trips - walk or bike if possible to stay healthy!
5. Waste less – use cloth napkins, bags, and reusable food/beverage containers at work and school
6. Get a rain barrel to collect water from your roof to use for plants and outdoor clean up
7. Eat locally produced food to reduce transportation and support your local economy
8. Wash full loads in your clothes and dish washer
9. Recycle – recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV or computer for 3 hours!
10. Know Your Footprint – calculate your carbon footprint on-line (many free on-line calculators) and strategize with your family on how to reduce your footprint
11. Use your Voice - Tell your friends, family, network and elected officials that climate change matters to you and encourage action.

To prepare for the impacts from climate change:

1. Pay attention to warnings for strong storms
2. Have a personal/family preparedness plan for emergencies or storm events (include your pets!)
3. Be prepared to be without electricity (keep jugs for water, non perishable food and batteries on hand)
4. Be aware of neighbors or family members who are dependent on electricity for health reasons (i.e. oxygen)
5. Check your home and driveway for adequate drainage to prevent washouts
6. Evaluate whether you need to purchase a generator for periods of no electricity
7. Do regular tick checks after being outside and be aware of early warning signs of Lyme Disease and other vector borne illnesses
8. Have large trees around your house removed to prevent them from hitting your house during storms
9. Participate in community conversations to support preparedness in your town
10. Vote for local initiatives including increased efficiency in municipal buildings, culvert maintenance, tree removal etc...