

King County government has become a successful living laboratory and national model of strategies to reduce and prepare for global warming impacts. To learn more visit [www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming](http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming).



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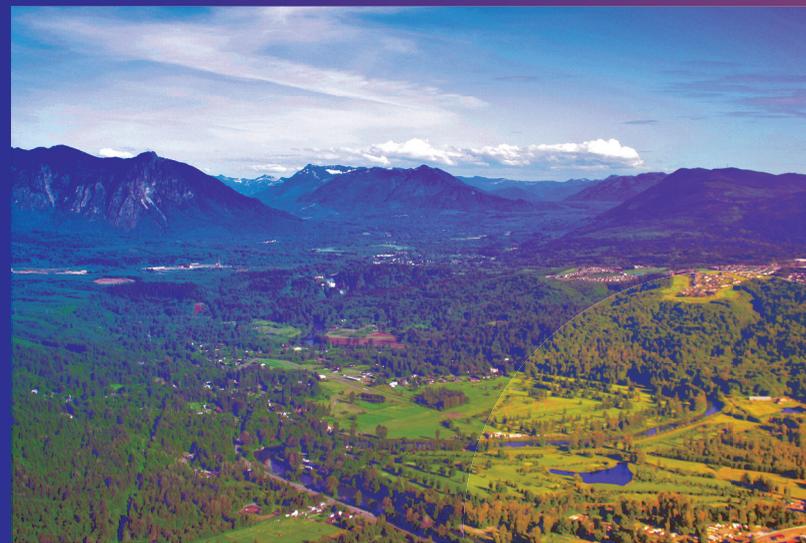
# Reduce Your Carbon Footprint – One Step at a Time



Global warming is a **challenge**, but it is also an **opportunity** for each of us to show that we can change our habits and make a collective difference in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

Experts say **American households** can cut their greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, by about 25 percent in six months through a few simple steps. Some of them **save you money**, and others **keep you healthy!**

**SEE INSIDE**



[www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming](http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming)

## Here are 10 STEPS you can take today to start reducing your carbon footprint:

### 1. Change your thinking

Our activities can have a positive effect. Green technology can save and even make money for us. We are living in one of the most challenging times in history, but it also presents some of the greatest opportunities for doing things differently and better for the future. To learn more about what King County is doing to combat global warming, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming](http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming).

### 2. Know your "carbon footprint"

Your carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases you produce, measured in units of carbon dioxide. Knowing which of your daily activities at home and work create greenhouse gas emissions is the first step to changing your habits. Bonneville Environmental Foundation provides a "carbon calculator" tailored to the Pacific Northwest at [www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/calculator\\_intro.cfm](http://www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/calculator_intro.cfm).

### 3. Bus, bike or walk to your errands

Driving alone in a car is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington. It may seem hard to give up your car, but try a new way of getting there. Walking is environmentally friendly and healthful. King County Metro Transit offers information on bus routes (<http://transit.metrokc.gov>) and resources on bicycling in our region, including bike maps (<http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/bike/index.cfm>). If you must drive, try car sharing with Flexcar ([www.flexcar.com](http://www.flexcar.com)) or consider a hybrid for your next vehicle purchase.



### 4. Buy locally

Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions from freight and mass food production by buying locally-grown produce and getting to know the folks who grow it. "Meet the Producers" takes on a whole new meaning when you visit King County's 32 farmers markets in the great community-supported agriculture network of Puget Sound Fresh! (<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/farms>).



### 5. Restore habitat

Volunteer to work on King County projects planting trees, restoring stream and wetland buffer habitats for fish and wildlife and improving water quality. Contact Tina Miller for details at 206-296-2990.



### 6. Be energy efficient

Purchasing energy efficient products and appliances helps you save energy and money too! Compact fluorescent light bulbs help save electricity and are safe to use, but be sure to dispose of them properly. When looking for household appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR appliances and earn rebates from Puget Sound Energy, which provides rebates to qualified customers on such items as energy efficient clothes washers and dishwashers, compact fluorescent light fixtures and compact fluorescent light bulbs. For energy efficiency rebates, tips, and information, call an Energy Advisor at 1-800-562-1482.



### 7. Plug in... to the climate action community

King County is proud to be leading the region in preparing for climate change and has joined with several organizations to raise awareness. Most recently, King County participated in the The Step It Up Day of Climate Action ([www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org)) which brought out 1,000 people in Seattle alone. Climate Solutions ([www.climatesolutions.org/](http://www.climatesolutions.org/)), another local organization, is working toward curbing greenhouse-gas emissions and global warming.



April 14, 2007 rally

### 8. Become an EcoConsumer

King County's EcoConsumer program ([www.KCecoconsumer.com](http://www.KCecoconsumer.com)) offers resources to help balance consuming and conserving. For example, prevent waste and cut down on clutter at home by reducing junk mail (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/dnpr/swd/wasteprevention/junkmail.asp>).

### 9. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Every day, King County residents and businesses run across unwanted items that make them wonder: "What do I do with this?" King County's Solid Waste Division offers a Web site for businesses and residents that lists recycling, reuse and proper disposal options for 98 categories of items, from propane tanks to paint to packing peanuts. Visit <http://www.metrokc.gov.dnpr/swd/wdidw>.

### 10. Make your next house a green home

Built Green™ is a residential building program of the Master Builders Association developed with King and Snohomish counties. Built Green™ homes are more energy efficient, use fewer toxic materials and minimize the impact on the environment during construction. To learn more visit [www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/greenbuilding/builtgreen.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/greenbuilding/builtgreen.asp).