

- **TIP: Travel light.** Whenever possible, walk or bike instead of driving a car. Cars and trucks run on fossil fuels, which release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the United States, automobiles produce over 20 percent of total carbon emissions. Walking or biking saves one pound of carbon for every mile you travel. If you must drive to work or run errands, form carpools with your co-workers and neighbors, and plan trips for gasoline efficiency.
- **TIP: Inflate your tires.** Your car will get better gas mileage when the tires are fully inflated, so it will burn less gas and emit less carbon. Check your automobile monthly to ensure that the tires are fully inflated. Follow this tip and save 300 pounds of carbon dioxide for every 10,000 miles you drive.
- **TIP: Teleconference instead of flying.** For office meetings, if you can telephone or videoconference, you will save time, money and carbon emissions. Airplanes pump carbon emissions high into the atmosphere, producing 12 percent of transportation sector emissions. Avoid driving or flying all the way across Texas if you can accomplish your meeting by phone or videoconference.
- **TIP: Plant Texas native trees.** Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and use it as their energy source, producing oxygen for us to breathe. A tree in the temperate zone – found between the tropics and the polar circles – can remove and store 700 to 7,000 pounds of carbon over its lifetime. A tree that shades a house can reduce the energy required to run the air-conditioner and save an additional 200 to 2,000 pounds of carbon over its lifetime.
- **TIP: Turn down the air-conditioning.** Heating and air-conditioning draw more than half of the energy that a home uses in the United States. Turn down the heat or air-conditioning when you leave the house or go to bed. You can install a programmable thermostat that can save both money and carbon.
- **TIP: Act globally, eat Texas-style.** At the grocery store, the food you buy may travel in a plane or ship from the other side of the world, burning fossil fuels the entire trip. Whenever possible, consider shopping at local farmers' markets and stores that carry locally grown foods – or look for these in the supermarket. You will find fresh and healthy Texas-grown produce and meats, and help save our climate.
- **TIP: A bright idea. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.** These energy-efficient bulbs help fight climate change because they reduce the amount of fossil fuels that utilities burn. You will save 100 pounds of carbon for each incandescent bulb that you replace with a compact fluorescent, over the life of the bulb.
- **TIP: Recycle and use recycled products.** Products made from recycled paper, glass, metal and plastic reduce carbon emissions because they use less energy to manufacture than products made from completely new materials. For instance, you'll save two pounds of carbon for every 20 glass bottles that you recycle. Recycling paper also saves trees and lets them continue to reduce climate change naturally as they remain in the forest, where they remove carbon from the atmosphere. Many Texas cities now provide curbside recycling for households.

Easy Things You Can Do To Help Our Climate



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