



Understanding Global Warming

Global warming is one of our most pressing environmental and economic challenges. Changes in temperature are already causing noticeable climate shifts right here in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the last 250 years, we have turned to fossil fuels—carbon-containing oil, coal, and natural gas—to power our factories, trains, ships, trucks, cars, buildings, and homes. Burning these fuels releases carbon as carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most prevalent global warming pollutant. CO₂ builds up in our atmosphere and acts like a thick blanket which holds more heat, warming up what's underneath: the earth!

Save Money!

If everyone in the U.S. switched just one bulb to an Energy Star bulb, it would prevent the equivalent pollution of more than one million cars annually.



"We simply must do everything we can in our power to slow down global warming before it is too late. The science is clear. The global warming debate is over."
— CA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger



For over 35 years, it has been the Northwest Clean Air Agency's job to ensure that people in our region have clean air to breathe. Our agency promotes local programs to reduce global warming pollution through public education and interagency partnerships.

Together we can solve global warming.

Learn More!

Go to nwcleanair.org and sign up to receive weekly email tips.



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Climate Change

How we can solve global warming

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People Cause It, People Can Fix It

We have changed the climate as a result of our fossil fuel use. However, the solution is just as straightforward and simple: Make smarter personal choices in transportation, future-growth and energy consumption. Each one of us can actually have an impact, in many cases while saving money.

Transportation and Smart Growth

- **Invest in Alternatives.**
Rely less on cars and support initiatives to broaden our choices, like bus and rail, and safe bike routes.
- **Encourage More Efficient Vehicles & Fuels.**
Save money while influencing greater change.
- **Build Mixed-Use Communities.**
Reduced sprawl eases transportation emissions and costs.

Energy Solutions

- **Invest in Increased Efficiency.**
Squeeze more out of each watt of power with more efficient appliances and technologies.
- **Support Renewable Energy.**
Shift towards alternative energy sources such as wind or solar power.



Save Fuel!

Every gallon you save keeps twenty pounds of CO₂ out of our air.



At Stake in the Pacific Northwest

Scientists predict that the average annual temperature in the Pacific Northwest will rise by 0.5°F or more every decade. The effects of just this one half-degree change in temperature could be devastating.

Water

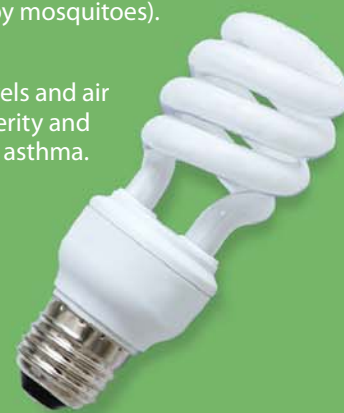
- **Shortages**
Warmer temperatures mean more rain in the winter and less snow. This means less water is available in the summer and fall for agriculture, viable salmon habitats, hydro-electric power, industry, and our growing population.

Extreme Weather

Atmospheric changes due to rising temperatures may increase the severity and frequency of flooding and storms—2006 might have signaled a trend.

Health

- **Vector Borne Disease**
Warming temperatures and added precipitation have been shown to trigger increased spread of diseases like West Nile Virus (spread by mosquitoes).
- **Respiratory Ailments**
Warmer temperatures raise ozone levels and air pollution, which can increase the severity and frequency of pulmonary diseases like asthma.



You Can Make a Difference

It is easy to become discouraged by the enormous scale of climate change. Yet, individual choices can have a huge impact on global warming and very often save you money. It's a win-win opportunity.

Ten Things You Can Do

- 1 Check your tires monthly.**
Properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by 3% to 10% and it takes just minutes of your time. You'll save at the pump as well as help reduce emissions.
- 2 Turn off your engine.**
Idling = 0 miles per gallon. Idling more than 30 seconds actually burns more fuel than it takes to restart the engine.
- 3 Make smart transportation choices.**
Carpool, walk, bike, or take the bus a couple of times a week or more. Combine errands into a single trip.
- 4 Change a light bulb.**
ENERGY STAR™ qualified bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. You save power and money.
- 5 Use a programmable thermostat.**
A programmable thermostat in your home can reduce energy use and costs by about \$150 a year—another double-win situation.



6 Be Energy Efficient.

Save water, energy, and money with energy-efficient appliances when possible, running dishwashers only when full, and washing clothes in cool water.

7 Buy local food.

Much of the food in the supermarket is trucked long distances and refrigerated for weeks. Buying locally is fresher, supports your community, and cuts carbon emissions.

8 Support clean energy technologies and policies.

Sign up for your utility's green power program. Ask your elected representatives to support clean energy growth.

9 Plant a tree.

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime.

10 Spread the word.

Share this brochure with family and friends.

You have the power to stop global warming!

Stay Involved!

Go to nwcleanair.org and sign up to receive weekly email tips.