

CLIMATE CHANGE

You can do something
about it.

Here are some ideas.

ACT NOW!!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE CAN ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE – HERE ARE SOME OF THEM - IN YOUR HOME.

1. Recycle glass, aluminium, metal, cardboard – everything possible!
2. Buy energy efficient appliances, and turn them off when not in use.
3. Run washing machines only when full.
4. Plant a tree - or several!
5. Do all your ironing at one time – or opt for clothes which don't need it.
6. Buy recycled paper for home and work – including toilet paper.
7. Use only energy-efficient light-bulbs.
8. Turn off lights which don't need to be on.
9. Always use cold water unless necessary to use hot.
10. Use small ovens or stove-top cooking instead of your large oven.
11. Take your reusable bags for shopping whenever possible.
12. Write to companies urging that they use paper rather than plastic or polystyrene packaging. Request paper wrapping whenever possible.
13. Only buy products which will last, then look after them.
14. Support environmentally conscious businesses. Congratulate personally those you identify.
15. Insulate your house – there are many possibilities, not just expensive ones eg. window-blankets rather than double-glazing.
16. Avoid buying rainforest products. Ask where the wood comes from.
17. Take the bus, walk or ride your bike.
18. Buy locally produced foods. Where possible don't buy imported goods.
19. Buy environmentally safe products.
20. Start or support local tree-planting or restoration programmes.
21. Use rainwater or grey water for your garden. Start a garden!! Increase its size! Start a worm farm or compost!
22. Recycle newspapers by using them for weed suppressors.
23. Use white vinegar and baking soda as your main household cleaner.
24. Use natural biological control methods in your garden and orchard.
25. Run dishwashers only when fully loaded – or wash by hand, with less water.
26. Dry your washing in the open air, rather than a dryer.
27. Install water-efficient showerheads and taps.

28. Turn your water heater temperature down. Explore installing a solar water heater!
29. Clean and reuse containers, especially plastic ones.
30. Use only water-based paints and stains.
31. Be alert to plastics everywhere, and be ready to pick them up and dispose of them wisely.
32. Consider carpooling to go shopping.
33. Start a neighbourhood garden. Or support your local school's or child care centre's garden.
34. Start a petition to your local Council about a tree planting or native restoration programme.
35. Urge your Council or local government departments to use only recycled paper.
36. Talk to your children about these ideas and why they are important. Invite their contributions.
37. Tell your friends and neighbours about climate change and your practical responses to it.
38. Write to your newspaper or to politicians about the issue and tell them you want action.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR WORKPLACE?

39. Take the bus, walk or bike to meetings or visiting clients/customers.
40. Encourage employees/workmates to do the same. Suggest they phone before using a car. Offer incentives for not driving.
41. Use teleconferencing instead of driving or flying to meetings.
42. Use public transport, or bike or walk to work.
43. Buy electric or hybrid vehicles when replacing your fleet. Maintain your fleet well so it lasts longer.
44. Buy a bike rack - or a bike(!) - for your employees to use.
45. Put a carpool matching map in the office.
46. Arrange to work at home one or more days per week. Encourage employees/colleagues to do this.
47. Start a paper recycling programme – and encourage recycling generally.
48. Make two-sided copies whenever possible.

49. Arrange for an annual environmental audit of your workplace. And have regular staff consultations about possible actions.
50. Encourage staff to take holidays in N.Z. rather than overseas.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CAR??

51. Maintain your car or bike so they last longer.
52. Have your car's emissions tested regularly.
53. Have your car tuned especially before winter. Wash your car on grass or at a commercial car wash which uses recycled water.
54. Check tyre pressures regularly .
55. Use your air conditioning only when really necessary.
56. Recycle motor oil and batteries.
57. Avoid accelerated starts – this saves fuel.
58. Avoid situations requiring prolonged idling.
59. Remove unnecessary articles from your car – extra weight reduces fuel efficiency.
60. Avoid driving to every appointment – park and walk.
61. When buying a new car, buy an electric vehicle or hybrid – or aim for the most fuel efficient option.
62. Thoroughly investigate public transport and car-pooling options, both for you and your family. Consciously explore ways to avoid car usage. Have you considered the possibility of managing without a car??

The above ideas are starting points. Make your own additions.

Think constantly about the future and the kind of world you want for your children and grandchildren.