

# 5 WAYS YOU CAN FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

Yes, global warming is a big problem, but we can tackle it if we work together. Everyone has a role to play—you, me, businesses, government. By making different, smarter decisions right now about how we use energy at home, at work and as a nation, we can cut our carbon emissions and curb climate change. Just a few of these practical steps can significantly reduce your carbon footprint (the amount of global warming

pollution you create in your daily life), save money, clean up our air and water, create new jobs and industries and fight global warming—2 percent at a time. That's what it will take to stabilize our climate—a 2 percent reduction in carbon emissions each year for the next 40 years. But to reach our goal of 80 percent reduction by 2050, we all must be part of the 2 percent solution.

## IN YOUR CITY

### 1. ASK YOUR MAYOR TO GET COOL

Ask your Mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (to reduce global warming pollution by seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012) and to prepare a "Cool Cities" action plan that includes clean-energy solutions such as energy efficiency, cleaner vehicles, and renewable energy to meet the agreement's goals. (<http://www.sierraclub.org/coolcities>)

### 2. CHANGE LIGHTING, SAVE MONEY

Lobby for the use of super-efficient LEDs in traffic signals and for compact fluorescent bulbs in all city-owned buildings.

### 3. MAKE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS GREEN

Insist that your city require new and renovated municipal buildings to meet green energy-efficient standards ([usgbc.org](http://usgbc.org)), purchase Energy Star electronics and appliances ([energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)), and encourage the use of efficient combined heat and power facilities. As most cities have lots of existing buildings and are likely to build few new ones, retrofitting existing buildings can be an extremely large and particularly important source of potential carbon reductions.

### 4. GREEN POWER

Does your city purchase green power (from wind, solar, and other clean sources)? Set a goal for a percentage of the city's electricity to come from renewable energy, and invest in local solar panels and wind turbines.

### 5. GREEN FLEETS

Ask that your city green its vehicle fleet with hybrids and other cleaner vehicles and that it provide better public transportation choices. (<http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/cleancars>).



## IN YOUR STATE

### 1. GREEN ENERGY

States are moving fast to set Renewable Energy Standards—by mandating that a certain percentage of the electricity be produced from sources like wind and solar. This not only ensures that consumers can purchase green power but also spurs investment in clean-energy technologies that create jobs and encourages renewable energy to become cheaper and more widespread.

### 2. CLEAN CARS

California has taken the lead in setting emissions standards for cars that are stricter than federal standard—reducing not only carbon emissions but also other dangerous pollutants that foul our air and damage our health. More than a dozen states, particularly in the Northeast, have followed California's lead.

### 3. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

States have an important role to play in encouraging energy efficiency at home, at work, and in our factories. California's aggressive energy-efficiency program has allowed the state's economy to grow without using any more electricity than it did 30 years ago. In addition to innovative efficiency programs like Vermont's public benefit fund, states can also set efficiency standards for appliances like air conditioners that ensure the electronics we all depend on everyday don't use more energy than is necessary. These efforts can protect both our pocketbooks and our climate.

### 4. TAX INCENTIVES

States can offer a wide variety of tax incentives to encourage everything from the purchase of hybrids to the installation of solar panels on your rooftop to assistance to businesses wanting to upgrade their equipment to modern energy-efficient models. You can find out exactly what incentives are available in your state by visiting <http://zoomer.sierraclub.org/> and clicking on "energy incentives."

### 5. GREEN ELECTRICITY

States are moving to green their economies and, in particular, their power grids. To avoid simply exporting emissions, California has barred utilities from entering into long-term contracts for power generated out of state by anything dirtier than a modern natural gas-fired power plant. Idaho has banned pulverized coal plants. Rules like these protect the efforts of states to reduce their own emissions and ensure that the citizens of one state are not stuck with pollution from power plants built simply to generate and ship power to another state.

# BE PART OF THE 2% Solution

A SIERRA CLUB CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

FOR MORE TIPS ON HOW TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR THROUGH YOUR COMPANY, VISIT:  
[www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/factsheets/](http://www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/factsheets/)



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MARCH 2007