



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS

# Global Warming Reduction for the Renter

### Vote!

Vote with your wallet and with your ballot- when earth friendly politicians are in office, legislation to curb global warming can be enacted and corporations will be held accountable for their actions. Support politicians and companies with a positive environmental record that take direct action to reduce the impact of global warming. Collectively our voices will ring clear and we can save the planet!



3. “Energy Star” Appliances - An “energy star” air conditioner will use at least 10% less power than a conventional model ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov))
4. Wireless Charges - keep your cell phone or iPod charger unplugged when not in use. Like your TV they will use power even if your cell phone is not attached.

### Transportation

Transportation remains one of the most obvious places where global warming pollution is created. Ride a bike, take public transportation, and reduce your flights. 20 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> are released for every gallon of gas you burn, so not only are you being hit in the pocketbook by rising gas prices, the environment is suffering from pollutants. Go carbon free and get some exercise too!



### Food

What you eat is nearly as important as what you drive. Red meat in particular requires dozens of times more water, grain, and energy to produce any vegetable, fruit, or grain. In addition, cows create methane gas as a by-product of digestion, contributing to global warming. Cattle, according to the UN, produce 18% of the total greenhouse gas emissions. More than all forms of transportation combined!



This doesn't mean you have to give up meat completely, but eating lower on the food chain will certainly require less energy and produce fewer global warming causing gases.

### Electricity

Electric usages is a prime target for reducing your global warming impact ... and your bills.

1. Replace your old incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) or light-emitting diodes (LED). Replacing one frequently used bulb saves 500 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. See our Lighting 101 fact sheet for more information.
2. Use Power Strips - Your TV and DVD player use power even when off. Kill this “phantom load” by putting them on a power strip and turning the strip on and off.



### Eat Locally and Seasonally

An average meal travels 2,500-4,000 miles to your plate. That's a lot of air planes and trucks burning a lot of fossil fuels! 17 times more CO<sub>2</sub> is produced than if you eat locally grown food.



Farmers markets are a great way to eat healthy, support local farmers, and reduce global warming pollution from all those planes and trucks. Plus, eating food that is in season tastes better. Just say no to asparagus from Chile in the winter, but gorge during the late-spring when it is in season in Illinois.

## Don't Leak

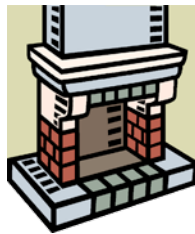
Is your apartment windy on cold nights? All those cracks, gaps, and openings around your windows, doors, plumbing, and wiring is the same as leaving your window wide open! Seal these cracks, and you'll save more than 10% on your heating bills and be more comfortable. In the summer you'll keep the cool air in.



You can use temporary caulk that comes off in the summer and can be re-applied in the winter. Using shrink wrap window kits can increase the insulation rating of a window by 90%.

## Choke the Chimney

If you have a fire place you could be losing 8% of your heated air, even with the damper closed. Try holding a lit candle in and around the opening, if it flickers about, you've got a leak. Use insulation or spray foam to close the gap.



## Be Solar Powered

In the winter open your curtains and blinds in south facing windows to take advantage of solar heating. Install heavy curtains and keep them closed at night and you'll keep the warmth inside.



In the summer keep those blinds closed in the heat of the day.

## Other Simple Things You Can Do

**Turn down the thermostat in the winter**  
Each degree turned down equals approximately  
315 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year

**Run the dishwasher only with a full load.**  
Saves 100 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

**Use recycled paper.**  
Each ream saves 5 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Take shorter showers with a low flow shower head.**  
Saves 700 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

**Wash your clothes in cold water rather than hot.**  
Saves 500 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year at two loads per week.

**Buy food and other products with less packaging or reusable/recyclable packaging.**  
Saves 230 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.



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