

Personal Actions to Reduce Carbon Emissions

At Home:

- **Minimize water consumption**-Homer Water Dept is our biggest Greenhouse Gas Emitter as it uses energy to pump water around the village. Dripping faucets, long showers, taps and hoses left running all run up your bill, and Homer's CO2 emissions. Insulate hot water pipes.
- **Hang it all out!** (On a clothesline) When our weather warms, Mother Nature provides a FREE way to dry your clothes. Sunlight and breezes dry and help sanitize sheets and towels without expensive electricity; doing laundry alone accounts for more than 8% of US residential CO2.
- **Your kitchen sink** can be the biggest source of water-related Greenhouse Gas Emissions in your home. A full dishwasher uses about 75% less hot water than hand-washing if you leave the faucet running. No dishwasher? Fill a bowl with hot water and a squirt of detergent and use a brush to scrub the dishes clean. Baking soda plus leaving stubborn baked-on gunk to soak works too. Use the sink sprayer to rinse with cold water once dishes are stacked in drainer.

In the Garden:

- **Plant your favorite veggies**, in a freshly-dug plot, a simple raised bed, or a big pot or bucket with a drainage hole . More than 1/3 of our fruits and vegetables are grown in California and trucked across to NY. Varieties are grown not for the best flavor but to be picked before their peak and to hold up for the week or more in transit. Most have been sprayed with pesticides designed not to wash off in rain.
- **Can't grow your own, buy local.** Go to a local farmers market, one of CNY's pick-your-own growers, or join a CSA. Think of all the diesel fuel and CO2 those cross-country trucks consume too. Try to avoid produce that needs to be flown in. By buying local you are supporting your neighbors and helping the environment.
- **Start composting.** US households waste up to 40% of food they buy. It's been estimated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization that if food waste was a country, it would be the third highest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions after the US and China. Not only does 1/3 of global gge come from agriculture, wasted food rots in landfills unless composted and returned as organic fertilizer to enrich the soil. You can purchase our own backyard composter from the Village of Homer.

Be kind to bugs, birds and worms:

- **Reduce Weed killers and pesticides** to make green lawns kill all kinds of beneficial creatures that we need to keep the planet healthy. Dandelions provide beneficial bees

with food in early spring before other plants are flowering. Many bugs serve as food for birds feeding hungry chicks.

- **Electric lawn mowers** are quieter, lighter, less polluting, and last longer than gas-powered machines. Corded or cordless (battery-powered) models are available , as are weed whackers.

Technology:

- **The Internet is not carbon-free.** It's estimated that by 2025 Greenhouse Gas Emissions from our electronic gadgetry and Internet use with their associated production costs and support systems like data centers, Netflix, Facebook, Twitter, and email will equal that of airlines, about 7.5% of global CO₂. Despite the industry's efforts to reduce carbon footprints, 20% of US electricity is still produced from fossil fuels. You can help by hanging on to your existing computer, phone, or TV an extra year or two, by sending links instead of attachments with emails, by unsubscribing from unused lists. And of course by unplugging the array of "instant-on" devices at night wherever feasible.