

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Environmental concerns are everywhere these days, and more people than ever are interested in being “green.” **But what can you do to help? PLENTY.** While it may seem daunting, there are many things you can do to save energy, protect habitats and support a more sustainable future for communities all over the world.



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15 things YOU CAN DO to protect the planet

From simple everyday acts to more challenging opportunities, taking these steps links you to a green community—a global network of people working to provide a healthier planet for generations to come.

➔ GET STARTED

Shop with Reusable Bags

Discarded plastic bags can wash up on beaches, choke wildlife and contaminate our soils for centuries to come. Each reusable bag can eliminate an average of 1,000 plastic bags over its lifetime.

Drink From the Tap

Billions of disposable water bottles collect in landfills—all for a product that studies show may be no healthier than tap water. Using a durable bottle saves water, energy in the production process and money.

Change Your Lights

If each American home replaced one incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), we would save enough energy to light more than 25 million homes for a year. CFLs use 60 percent less energy and last seven times longer than traditional bulbs.

Pull the Plug

Printers, cell phone chargers and other electronics draw energy all the time—even when turned off. Unplugging these appliances when they aren't in use will reduce your energy consumption and impact on climate change.

Recycle

Go beyond glass, plastic and paper. Look for increasingly available recycling programs for items ranging from electronics to old shoes.

➔ TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

Know Your Food

Food can travel thousands of miles before reaching the table, or it may have been produced in a way that puts a heavy burden on the environment. Make smart choices when you shop: Explore local options, investigate sustainable fisheries and farming and understand the true cost of your food.

Dump Smart

Discarded items like paint cans, electronics and batteries can leak toxic chemicals—never send them to a landfill. Instead, investigate your disposal options; most communities have designated collection days and sites when you can unload materials safely.

Make it Last

Choose reusable cups, napkins and plates instead of paper versions, and help stop deforestation, reduce water usage and cut carbon emissions.

Get out of the Car

Many local governments are taking steps to support more efficient travel choices like public transportation and bike paths as an alternative to driving. Limiting your car travel will dramatically reduce carbon emissions.

Use the Refuse

Before you throw something away, think about how it might be reused. From composting organic materials to re-using plastic bottles to collect rain and water your garden, there are millions of creative ways to use your refuse!

➔ LEAD THE WAY

Start at Home

Do a home energy audit to determine your best options for increasing efficiency. Make your home more energy efficient, from hyper-insulated windows and roofs to alternative power sources. Many municipalities even offer tax credits for doing the right thing.

Know Your Impact

The largest impacts of travel are felt in the destinations you visit. Explore ecotourism options that minimize impact. Be sure to offset your carbon emissions when you travel as well: CI's Carbon Calculator can help you direct donations to reforestation projects around the world.

Drive with Intention

If—once you've explored your options for walking, biking and public transit—you determine that you need a personal car, purchase a hybrid, and cut your emissions by an average of 50 percent while saving money on gas.

Take a Stand

Find out about threats to your local and global environment, and take action: Attend town meetings, write to Congress and make your voice heard. The environment is not a partisan issue; help your politicians understand.

Spread the Word

Multiply your impact by talking about your actions to family, friends and colleagues. **We are all in this together, so explore what others in your community are doing to help the environment, and join in!**

OUR MISSION

Built upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature for the well-being of humanity.



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