

CONSERVING ENERGY AND ENERGY DOLLARS

To put it simply, carbon footprints are the negative impacts our daily life has on the environment. It is measured in units of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are responsible for global warming and climate change. The amount of carbon dioxide emissions from an individual during a specific time results in a carbon footprint. Some of the most effective ways to reduce carbon footprints start at home, don't cost a penny, and in fact, can save you money this summer.

Here are just a few examples. When trying to reduce your carbon footprint you need to be able to quantify it. Remember.... "what gets measured gets done."

Unplug

- Unplug seldom-used appliances, like an extra refrigerator in the basement or garage that contains just a few items. You may save around \$10 every month on your utility bill.
- Unplug your chargers when you're not charging. Every house is full of little plastic power supplies to charge cell phones, PDA's, digital cameras, cordless tools and other personal gadgets. Keep them unplugged until you need them.

Take Control.....of your energy use

- A programmable thermostat is a smart *and effective* way to control the temperature.
- Set the thermostat to 78 degrees when the house is occupied and turn the cooling system off when you are away.

Set Computers to Sleep and Hibernate

- Enable the "sleep mode" feature on your computer, allowing it to use less power during periods of inactivity. In Windows, the power management settings are found on your control panel. Mac users, look for energy saving settings under system preferences in the apple menu.
- Configure your computer to "hibernate" automatically after 30 minutes or so of inactivity. The "hibernate mode" turns the computer off in a way that doesn't require you to reload everything when you switch it back on. Allowing your computer to hibernate saves energy and is more time-efficient than shutting down and restarting your computer from scratch. When you're done for the day, shut down.

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