
Pollution of our world and global warming – What can we do?

Global warming and the resultant climate change is a highly complex issue. It is a scientific and conservation issue that has become an emotional one. We believe that education is a critical part of the remedy.

Many people find the issue confusing. They are reluctant to join in the effort to stop/prepare for global warming and climate change because they are confused by the complexity of the scientific evidence and are not sure what they can do. We want to encourage people to learn and get involved. This is a global issue that affects us here in Westford.

Science is not certain about how global warming works, but all agree that pollution and waste hurt our planet. So please – learn and get involved!



Skunk Cabbage – a sign of spring!

Twelve Things you can do:

- Change a light**
- Change your driving habits**
- Recycle more**
- Use less hot water**
- Avoid products with a lot of packaging**
- Adjust your thermostat**
- Plant a tree**
- Turn off electronic devices**
- Go solar**
- Get involved at work**
- Educate others**
- Tell your government**



Westford Conservation Trust

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Here is what you can do – starting today!

The twelve actions listed here are taken from several websites including the one Al Gore maintains to promote his Academy Award winning movie, An Inconvenient Truth.

These actions add up to a change in how individuals behave. We hope that our government will enact legislation that will guide industry in the right direction as well.

One of the actions you can take is to let your government know how you think and feel about this and other conservation related issues. What is at stake is nothing less than our planet's future.

Some web sites of interest:

- www.climatecrisis.net
- <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/>
- <http://climate.weather.com/>



A hooded merganser. These beautiful ducks arrive in Westford each spring.

Twelve Actions to Start Today **Change a light**

Replacing one regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Change your driving habits

Drive less – walk, bike or car pool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive.

Drive a Hybrid if you can.

Check your tires. Keeping your tires inflated can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. A gallon of gas saved = 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Recycle more

You save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide each year by recycling just half your household waste.

Use less hot water

Set your water temperature at 120 degrees, use a low flow shower head (350 pounds of carbon dioxide saved per year), and wash clothing in cold water.

Avoid products with a lot of packaging

You can save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down on garbage by 10%.

Adjust your thermostat

Moving your thermostat just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer, could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Plant a tree

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime.

Turn off electronic devices

Turn off the TV and stereo when not in use to save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Go solar

Install a solar thermal system for hot water to reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by about 720 pounds annually.

Get involved at work

Your company can save money by joining EPA programs such as Energy Star Buildings and Waste Wise recycling programs.

Educate others

First learn more yourself, then help your friends become more aware.

Tell your government

Write your representative! Let him/her know what you think and feel about this critical issue!



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