

It's Easy Being Green...Think Global Act Local

Many of us may feel overwhelmed by the current and future consequences of climate change. One option is to sink into despair and do nothing, another is to commit to making sustainable practices habitual. If you are having trouble adopting a “can do” mindset about climate change, think about the **impossible** things that have changed for the better in your lifetime...smoking in restaurants, passage of the civil rights act, the election of an African American president and so on. Each of these things happened because attitudes and actions changed incrementally.

There are things you can do on a personal, building, and neighborhood level to reduce your impact on the environment. Here are some actions you can take right now. While some of these actions seem insignificant in the face of the global systemic problems we face, we have to start somewhere and small actions add up.

10 things you can do about climate change

- Limit consumption of meat. [How Beef Production contributes to Climate Change](#)
- Use your dishwasher. A dishwasher consumes less water than hand washing dishes. [To Save Water, should you wash your hands of dishwashing?](#)
- Buy electricity from a renewable energy company. In New York State you can choose your energy source and can switch to one that offers more renewable choices [NYC Power your way](#)
- Carry a reusable water bottle/coffee mug. [A Million Bottles a Minute](#)
- Reduce/reuse/recycle [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)
- Recycling Food Waste ..Urge your building to join others in our area composting with the NYC program [Community Composting](#)
- Walk more, drive less, use public transportation [Climate Change and Cars NYC](#)
- Hold onto your cell phones, update less frequently to newer models. Why keep your cell phones [Hold on to your Cell phones](#)
- Make home more energy efficient: light bulbs, replace or seal up drafty windows [Benefits of Energy Efficiency](#)
- Support companies that are committed to sustainable practices. Companies with Bcorp certification demonstrate that they subscribe to sustainable practices. [B Corp Certification](#)

Resources

Meat consumption <https://www.scientificamerican.com/slideshow/the-greenhouse-hamburger/>

Use our dishwasher

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/11/24/564055953/to-save-water-should-you-wash-your-hands-of-hand-washing-dishes>

Renewable energy

<http://documents.dps.ny.gov/PTC/home/home>

Water bottles

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/28/a-million-a-minute-worlds-plastic-bottle-binge-as-dangerous-as-climate-change>

Recycle/Reuse/Reduce

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle>

Food Waste

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/our-work/reduce-reuse-recycle/community-composting>

Walking, driving, public transportation

<https://ny.curbed.com/2018/10/8/17952564/un-climate-change-report-new-york-transportation>

Cell Phones

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/28/climate/climate-fwd-smartphones-solar.html?module=inline>

Energy efficient home

<https://www.ny-engineers.com/blog/benefits-of-energy-efficiency-in-pre-war-apartments>

Support for sustainable business practices

https://bcorporation.net/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA597fBRCzARIsAHWby0FLPfg_1aPJUWzaPZOeca2UdT-78Ys1QJf3QrM_jjllzKjzrKrgTZwaAqz3EALw_wcB

This is not an exhaustive list. We encourage you, our neighbors to try as many of these actions as you can. We welcome your input, questions, inspirations on how to tackle the biggest issue we and future generations face . We especially welcome the feedback of young people. Contact us at itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com