

# CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

LOWER YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY!

In 2007, Mayor Bloomberg announced PlaNYC, 127 separate initiatives for a greener, greater New York. Focusing on the five key dimensions of the city's environment—land, air, water, energy, and transportation—our plan has become a model for cities worldwide. The plan contains initiatives such as greening our taxi fleet and planting a Million Trees in 10 years. One of PlaNYC's goals is a 30% reduction in global warming emissions citywide. However, we can't reach these goals without you! Encourage friends, family, and residents in your building to follow these easy steps toward a greener home.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION THREE-STEP TOOLKIT

This toolkit provides you with simple tips which will help save you money as you help save the environment and make New York City a healthier place to live. Each New Yorker's small steps, put together, will add up to big strides.

### STEP 1: GREEN YOUR HOME

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- **Switch to ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)**  
GE Energy Smart™, ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs use up to 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to ten times longer. To learn more about the energy savings of CFLs, please read [Energy Star's fact sheet](#).
- **Buy ENERGY STAR appliances**  
Energy Star® appliances use 10-50% less energy and water than traditional models. Nearly all appliances, from TVs to air conditioners to washers and dryers, have models that are made to meet ENERGY STAR® standards. Go to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) for more information.

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### — **Don't air condition an empty room**

Air conditioners are one of the largest consumers of electricity. Be sure to shut off your air conditioner when you're not home and manually set the thermostats and timers found on newer models. Also, using shades to help cool your home substantially reduces the amount of time your air conditioner needs to run.

### — **Unplug chargers and appliances when not in use**

In the average home, 40% of electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off but still plugged in. Make sure to unplug chargers and appliances when you are not using them.

### — **Switch to a green energy provider**

If just 10% of New Yorkers purchased green power it would prevent nearly three billion pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere each year. New Yorkers can easily sign up for green power by going to [poweryourway.com](http://poweryourway.com).

### — **Walk, bike or take public transportation**

You can eliminate 1,600 pounds of greenhouse gases a year just by leaving the car at home twice a week. Go to [mta.info](http://mta.info) to find the easiest way to get around the City using public transportation. And for bikers, visit the [Department of Transportation](http://Department of Transportation) or call 212-NEWYORK to get the 2009 New York Cycling Map.

### — **Recycle your glass, metal, paper, and plastic**

The average New York City resident discards nearly four and a half pounds of waste each day—that's more than three-quarters of a ton per year. You can help reduce this waste by following the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. If you have questions about the City's recycling guidelines or how to recycle, visit [NYCWasteLe\\$\\$](http://NYCWasteLe$$). To learn more about ways you can save, please visit the [City's guide to recycling in New York](http://City's guide to recycling in New York).

### — **Bring your own cloth bag to the grocery store**

Petroleum is used to produce the millions of plastic bags consumed in the City each year. Each cloth bag you use has a potential to eliminate an average of 1,000 plastic bags in its lifetime. Making the simple switch to cloth bags will reduce our nation's oil consumption and lead to a cleaner environment.

### — **Use green cleaning products**

Many cleaning products contain chemicals that can damage the environment and impact human health. Some ingredients in commercial cleaning products can be irritating to eyes and skin, and may cause chronic health problems, especially in small children. Green cleaning products are just as effective without the risks. Go to [greenerchoices.org](http://greenerchoices.org) for more information on choosing green cleaning products for your home.

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### —Switch to paperless bank statements and online bill paying

Sick of all that mail? Log on to your bank's website and enroll in their paperless banking program. If every home in the US viewed and paid bills electronically, the country would save 18.5 million trees and avoid 2.2 billion tons of toxic air pollutants. And if you want to reduce the junk mail you receive, visit [NYCWasteLe\\$\\$](#) to remove your name from mailing lists

## STEP 2: HELP GET FELLOW RESIDENTS INVOLVED!

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Educate. Education is the first step to empowerment and action. Print [flyers](#) and distribute to residents of your building.
- Ask your building's owner or superintendent to use non-toxic cleaning products when cleaning the common spaces of your building. Be sure to educate them as to why first!
- Organize an effort in your building to change all light bulbs in CFLs. Provide flyers to neighbors with information on the benefits of using CFLs and a list of neighborhood stores where they can purchase them.
- Organize a similar effort for power strips. According to Energy Star®, as much as 40 percent of the energy used to power appliances is consumed while they are turned off. Plugging appliances into a power strip and switching off the power strip will reduce energy use.
- Create an area in your lobby for residents to list information about used goods for sale or barter. Anything—furniture, clothing, electronics—in good shape can be reused. This saves everyone money and reduces the waste going to landfills.
- Engage neighbors in an energy savings challenge. Monitor your monthly energy bills for the biggest percentage changes in energy reduction. Post the monthly winner in the lobby for all the building to praise.

## STEP 3: ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE FIVE BOROUGHS TO BE GREENER TOO!

### INSTRUCTIONS

Share materials and ideas with family and friends in other neighborhoods to help make all of New York City greener and better!