

Shrink YOUR carbon footprint!

1. Recycle more.

You can save 2,400 lbs. of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year by recycling just half of your trash.

2. Avoid over-packaged products.

You can save 1,200 lbs. of CO₂ by throwing out 10% less garbage.

3. Change a light bulb.

Replace one traditional bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb and save 150 lbs. of CO₂ a year.

4. Drive less.

Walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus. You'll save one lb. of CO₂ for every mile you don't drive!

5. Check tires.

Keep tires inflated properly to improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gas you save keeps 20 lbs. of CO₂ out of the atmosphere!

6. Use less hot water.

It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Install a low flow showerhead (350 lbs. of CO₂ saved per year) and wash clothes in cold or warm water (500 lbs. saved per year).

7. Adjust your thermostat.

Moving your thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer could save about 2,000 lbs. of CO₂ a year.

8. Unplug electronics.

Electronics continue to use electricity even when turned off. Unplug them to save CO₂ and 10% on your electricity bill!

Info provided by
www.theclimateproject.org.



Resources

Calculate your carbon footprint using an online calculator.

The Nature Conservancy:
www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):
www.epa.gov/climatechange
Click the "Emissions Calculator" link.

Use the EPA's WARM calculator to see the impact of recycling.

www.epa.gov/warm

Learn more about climate change.

Thurston Climate Action Team:
www.oly-wa.us/thurstonclimateaction

State Department of Ecology:
www.ecy.wa.gov

Climate Solutions:
www.climatesolutions.org

U.S. EPA:
www.epa.gov/climatechange

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:
www.ipcc.ch



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www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org



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THURSTON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE

Climate change

The benefits of waste prevention and recycling



REDUCE  REUSE  RECYCLE

What is climate change?

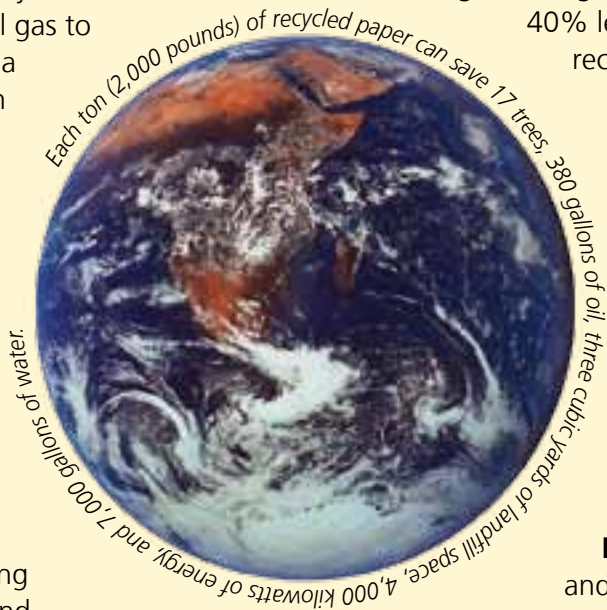
Climate change is a significant shift in temperature, rainfall, wind, and other indicators we measure to learn about our climate. Most scientists agree that high levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the Earth's atmosphere affect our climate. Severe changes in Earth's climate could have huge impacts on agriculture, air quality, global sea level, and more.

How does waste create greenhouse gases?

Collection and processing. The vehicles that take trash from your home to the landfill use a lot of fuel. A garbage truck's fuel efficiency is about three miles per gallon. At the landfill, equipment is required to process and bury trash. Burning oil, coal, and natural gas to fuel this equipment releases a significant amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most common GHG.

Disposal. When garbage is burned, it releases CO₂. As food and other organic materials rot in the landfill, they release methane gas. This GHG is 21 times more potent than CO₂!

Production of goods. Mining new materials and making and transporting products uses fuel and other resources. It also creates a lot of GHGs. Over 40% of America's carbon footprint comes from making and distributing products.



What can I do?

Compost. Instead of sending your food and yard waste to a landfill halfway across the state, put it to good use. Start a compost pile in your backyard, or get a compost collection cart from your garbage hauler.

Recycle. Products made from recycled materials use less energy and resources during production, generating less GHGs. For example, it takes 40% less energy to make paper from recycled pulp than to use new pulp.

Buy recycled. If you're not buying recycled products, you're not completing the loop!

Reuse. Before you toss something out, ask yourself whether you could repair it or use it in some other way. Buy items used when new ones aren't necessary. Buy durable products you can use again and again.

Buy less. Everything we buy, use, and discard uses resources, whether we recycle it or not. Before you buy something, think about whether you really need it. Do you already have something at home that could do the same job?

Where does our garbage go?

1



Every day, garbage trucks take nearly 900,000 pounds of trash to Thurston County's Waste and Recovery Center at Hawks Prairie. Equipment compacts it and puts it in containers.

2



Trucks haul our trash containers to Centralia, and trains take them to Roosevelt Landfill in Klickitat County. This journey is 240 miles!

3



Our trash gets buried with trash generated in the Northwestern United States and Canada. This landfill buries 16.6 million pounds of trash every day!