

**Go Electric!** Choose 100% renewable energy for your home and switch all appliances to electric.

# 25 Steps Under \$25

## Lighting

- 1. Turn off the lights in unused rooms.
- 2. Buy energy-efficient LED bulbs for the lights you use most. They last 10x longer and have no mercury.
- 3. Replace your halogen lamp with an LED lamp. Saves on air conditioning as well, LEDs are 90% cooler than halogen.
- 4. Replace holiday decorations with LED lights.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

380 pounds a year  
193 pounds a year per bulb  
475 pounds a year  
122 pounds a season

## Appliances & Gadgets

- 5. Unplug and recycle old or rarely used refrigerators.
- 6. Allow laundry items to air-dry after washing.
- 7. Cut your phantom electric loads in half by installing surge protectors for computers, copier, fax machine, printer, TV, etc. and turning off your office equipment when you're not using it. Make sure sound systems and projectors are turned off when not in use.
- 8. Run dishwasher only with a full load and use the "energy-saving" setting to dry dishes. Or don't use heat when drying, just open the door to air dry.
- 9. Use non-motorized lawn and garden care equipment. Using other traditional non-electric tools will also make a contribution to energy savings. For example use a rake to collect leaves, a shovel for snow.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

2,500 pounds a year  
200 pounds a year for every dryer load reduced per week;  
780 pounds a year for the entire summer;  
1,400 pounds a year if year-round  
A minimum of 500 pounds a year. (Phantom loads account for 6% of our nation's electrical use.)  
200 pounds a year  
At least 100 pounds a year

# COOL CONGREGATIONS



Interfaith Power & Light

More at [www.coolcongregations.org](http://www.coolcongregations.org)

## Heating & Cooling

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

- 10. Ask your utility for a building energy audit to find out how to improve your building's efficiency. These audits are usually free and make you eligible for rebates on improvements. Potentially thousands of pounds a year
- 11. Don't overheat or overcool rooms. Adjust thermostat lower in winter and higher in summer. Close curtains to block sunlight in summer. 500 pounds a year for each 2 degree adjustment
- 12. Clean or replace air filters as recommended. Cleaning a dirty air conditioner filter can save 5% of the energy used. 175 pounds a year
- 13. Install programmable thermostats to automatically adjust temperatures. 600 pounds a year
- 14. Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows to plug leaks. Up to 1,350 pounds a year

## Water

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

- 15. Reduce shower time by 5 minutes. Showers account for 2/3 of water heating costs. 250 pounds a year per person
- 16. Instead of washing laundry items in hot water, wash them in cold water. 500 pounds a year for each two loads a week reduced
- 17. Turn down water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees. Think about installing a programmable thermostat on water heater. 500 pounds a year for each 10 degree adjustment
- 18. Install low-flow showerheads to use less hot water.  Up to 300 pounds a year
- 19. Install low-flow faucet aerators. 1.0-gallon per minute is the best. 20 pounds a year per faucet
- 20. If water heater is 10 years old, or more, wrap it in an insulating jacket. Up to 1,000 pounds a year

## Getting Around

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

- 21. Whenever possible, walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit. 20 pounds for every gallon of gas saved
- 22. Check the inflation in vehicle tires monthly to increase fuel efficiency. 250 pounds a year
- 23. Change vehicle air filters according to the car manual. 200 pounds a year

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot

## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

- 24. Reduce purchases - share, swap, buy used - it's hip! Reduce packaging - buy food in bulk. Reduce food waste - eat your leftovers or freeze them for later. Reuse - choose reusable products rather than disposable. Recycle what you cannot reuse, and Rot the rest (compost). 100 pounds a year for every gallon of garbage per week reduced
- 25. Support the development of renewable energy sources from your energy company.

Cool Congregations is a program of [Interfaith Power & Light](http://www.CoolCongregations.org). More info at [www.CoolCongregations.org](http://www.CoolCongregations.org)