



Easy Steps Texans Can Take to Make a Difference Every Day

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average U.S. household is responsible for the emission of almost 60 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming. Each household can eliminate up to 32 percent or 20 tons of this CO₂ footprint by making simple yet powerful choices. Green Mountain Energy Company offers these 10 simple steps that Texans can take to make their homes less polluting, and to make *every day Earth Day*.

Green Mountain's Top 10 Tips

- 1. Flip the Switch to Cleaner Electricity.** Most people don't realize that making electricity is the leading cause of industrial air pollution in the U.S. By choosing *Pollution Freesm* electricity from Green Mountain Energy Company instead of typical system power, a Texas household with average monthly usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) can prevent more than 2,300 pounds of [CO₂](#) emissions a year. That's as much [CO₂](#) as over 140 trees would absorb in one year!
- 2. Offset Your Emissions.** While it's nearly impossible to reduce your carbon footprint to zero, you can offset the emissions that remain from your household's driving, flying, and natural gas usage with BeGreen Carbon Offsets. By purchasing BeGreen carbon offsets you're investing in cleaner technologies that help neutralize your impact on global warming. To purchase a BeGreen carbon offset product or to find out what your carbon footprint is, visit: www.begreennow.com.
- 3. Drive Smart.** Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of CO₂ out of the atmosphere! Keep your car tuned up, combine trips, limit idling to 30 seconds, never "top off" the tank, drive less aggressively and maintain proper tire pressure. Keeping you tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3 percent.
- 4. Switch to Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs).** If every U.S. household replaced the incandescent lighting in their five most frequently used fixtures with CFL's, the nation would save 800 billion kWh of electricity consumption. That's the equivalent of shutting down 21 power plants. Replacing each regular bulb with a CFL saves 150 pounds of CO₂ a year per bulb.
- 5. Recycle More.** You can save as much as 2,400 pounds of CO₂ emissions per year by recycling just half of your household waste.
- 6. Reduce at Home.** Turn off computers, televisions, CD players, and other electronic devices when they won't be used for at least half an hour.

Green Mountain's Top 10 Green Living Tips

- 1. Flip the Switch to Cleaner Electricity**
- 2. Offset Your Emissions.**
- 3. Drive Smart**
- 4. Switch to CFLs**
- 5. Recycle More**
- 6. Reduce at Home**
- 7. Say No to Plastic Bags**
- 8. Plant a Tree**
- 9. Upgrade to the EPA's ENERGY STAR-certified appliances**
- 10. Make Every Day Earth Day!**

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Green Mountain Green Living Tips – Page 2

- 7. Say No to Plastic Bags.** When shopping, bring a reusable bag such as a tote bag to carry your purchases. A plastic bag can take an astonishing 500 years to decompose.
- 8. Plant a Tree.** A single tree can absorb up to 665 pounds of CO₂ over its average forty year lifetime. An acre of 2,000 trees takes as much CO₂ out of the air as removing 118 cars from the road for a year.
- 9. Upgrade to the EPA's ENERGY STAR-certified appliances.** Products that have the EnergyStar[®] label use about 20 to 40 percent less energy than other new models. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2007 alone to avoid CO₂ emissions equivalent to those from 27 million cars.
- 10. Make Every Day Earth Day!** Make a pledge to live greener at home, at the office and in your community by *Making Every Day Earth Day*.

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About Green Mountain Energy Company

Green Mountain, the nation's leading provider of cleaner energy and carbon offset solutions, was founded in 1997 "to change the way power is made." The company is the longest serving green power marketer in the U.S. Green Mountain offers consumers and businesses the choice of cleaner electricity products from renewable sources such as wind and water, as well as a variety of carbon offset products. Green Mountain customers have collectively helped avoid over 4.9 million tons of CO₂ emissions. For more information, visit GreenMountain.com.

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