

WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT?

First, we must acknowledge that our consumptive behaviors result in a very large national impact on God's creation; i.e. Americans are responsible for more pollution and resource depletion than most other people on earth. Given that, we also must understand that individual behavioral changes to reduce consumption and practice non-polluting actions will only help a modest amount to solve the serious environmental problems that face us. The most effective and immediate solutions require a political will to pass effective government policies and regulations. However, we recognize that political priorities often stand in the way of progress toward solutions. So, if we truly wish to be a positive force in protecting God's beautiful creation, we must become more politically aware and active, by advocating and voting for appropriate government action.

Some of the other effective actions we can take as individuals are:

1. Eat lower on the food chain: less meat, more local organic foods. If Americans reduced their meat consumption by 50%, the greenhouse gases from agriculture would be reduced the equivalent of removing 42 million gas- powered cars from the road. Try gardening for fresh, uncontaminated food.
2. Reduce food waste: currently 25% of the total food purchased is wasted.
3. Buy renewable electricity, if available, or produce your own with solar panels.
4. Reduce your heating, cooling and lighting costs by adding insulation and LEDs.
5. Replace inefficient appliances with Energy Star products
6. Buy sustainable, used and recycled products. Avoid single-use plastics and poly clothing.
7. Reduce your travel and fuel use: Our largest individual carbon footprint (CO₂ emissions) comes from our transportation choices. If possible buy hybrid or EV vehicles. Reduce flying, as this is much more carbon intensive than driving.
8. **DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR CLOTH BAG WHEN SHOPPING!**

Creation Care Ministry

