

WANT TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE? HERE'S PRACTICAL ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO.

1. Dominion Energy offers free energy-saving assistance and supplies.

Get a free whole house energy audit, with recommendations on changes to make in your house. Dominion offers rebates for some needed work and provides some supplies. Questions? www.domsavings.com. Or call Dominion at 1-888-366-8280.

2. Replace all your incandescent light bulbs with LED lights – at no cost!

One of Dominion's Energy's contractors will replace all your light bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights, free. One contractor in this area is Comfenergy, owner Mike Bradley. 703-623-6496. mbradley@comfenergy.com.

3. Significant financial subsidies are available to reduce your energy usage:

Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act provide financial incentives for homeowners to install energy-saving equipment. Obtain Federal tax credits (often 30% of the cost, up to a cap) for upgrading or installing:

- * heating and cooling systems;
- * hot water heaters;
- * electrical panels
- * insulation or modern doors/windows.
- * roof top solar panels. [Plus Fairfax County has tax incentives for solar: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/real-estate-solar-equipment>.]

There's information online if you search 'Inflation Reduction Act energy tax credits.' Here's one good website:

<https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal-tax-credits/non-business-energy-property-tax-credits>. And here's the official IRS publication on all the IRA climate provisions: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-and-deductions-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>

4. Use products made from recycled material. Recycling only works if there is demand for products made from recycled material. One easy choice is to buy paper products made largely of recycled paper, such as toilet paper. To check the environmental sustainability score for the toilet paper you currently use, view: <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/ashley-jordan/2022-tissue-scorecard-tps-future-lies-sustainability>. (Hint: UltraSoft requires old growth trees.) One company that sells toilet paper, paper towels and tissues, made exclusively from recycled paper, delivered

by mail, is the cheekily named 'Who Gives a Crap.' They're of good quality and save cutting down mature trees. <https://us.whogivesacrap.org/>

5. Replace old appliances. New energy star appliances offer significant energy savings. One study recommends: if an appliance is 5 years-old, do not replace. 10 years old, do the numbers; 15 years old, probably time to replace. This applies to the five major energy consuming appliances: refrigerator, washer, central air, furnace, hot water heater. Info. and possible rebates, at: <https://www.energystar.gov> .

6. Be mindful of how you use appliances. Wash clothes in cold water; heating the water is a major source of energy consumption, and hot water is not needed to clean clothes.

7. Be mindful of when you use appliances. Dominion Energy uses its most efficient electricity producers first; it adds the less efficient ones as demand requires. Running the dishwasher and the washing machine/dryer at off-peak hours increases the likelihood that Dominion will be using greenhouse gas-free nuclear power or hydro-electric power. (While off-peak hours vary with the season, midnight to 5 am is always great.) <https://www.dominionenergy.com/virginia/rates-and-tariffs/off-peak-plan>

8. Install a programmable smart thermostat. It will automatically increase or lower your home's temperature at appropriate times that you select (like when you're regularly out of the house, or in bed). Some thermostats have sensors to 'learn' your patterns and suggest settings. // Lower your thermostat 2 degrees; save up to 6% off your electric usage. Save energy and on your utility bill. Information at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/the-best-thermostat/>

9. Subscribe to the Washington Post 'Climate Coach' email:

A free weekly emailed column on climate issues, with much practical advice. Easy reading.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/newsletters/climate-coach/confirm/>

10. Vote only for candidates who take climate change seriously. Seriously.

We can't fix this without significant governmental involvement. All the steps above are valuable, but fully eliminating human-generated greenhouse gases depends on measures only a government can require. Vote; it matters.

** Want to be on the Green Team's email list? Or if you make changes, let us share your story. Email cagey156@aol.com . Good luck. The NVHC Social Action Committee.*