

Things we CAN DO to help slow climate change

1. **Transport – motor vehicles produce 17% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and transport is the largest contributor to domestic emissions**
 - ❖ Use the car less and use public transport where possible
 - ❖ Reduce plane travel. www.chooseclimate.org/flying/emit.html
 - ❖ Down size your vehicle to what you really need and car pool
 - ❖ Offset the emissions for the fuel and plane travel you do www.carbonneutral.com.au
2. **Electricity Generation and Use – contributes 33% of total greenhouse gas emissions and up to 20% of domestic emissions.**
 - ❖ Change to solar or gas hot water and house heating; insulate your home
 - ❖ Buy electricity through Green Power – see www.carbonneutral.com.au for details
 - ❖ Switch off appliances and lights when not required.
 - ❖ Use your PC more efficiently – see <http://www.climatesaverscomputing.org/>
 - ❖ Use low energy bulbs and 'four or five star' rated appliances.
 - ❖ Use air conditioners only when necessary & keep cooling/heating settings for summer & winter 21- 23 degrees for most efficient use
 - ❖ Offset emissions through www.carbonneutral.com.au
3. **Food - Reduce use of containerized food, drinks, dairy foods and meats**
 - ❖ Eat more fresh foods and vegetables. *More fertilizer, nutrient and fuel inputs are required to produce a tonne of meat or milk than to grow the same amount of grain, vegetables or fruit. Cattle & sheep – emit methane (which has 20x the global warming effect of CO2).*
4. **Waste - Minimize the amount of rubbish you discard for landfill**
 - ❖ Minimize purchases of containers, packaging that will be discarded after little use. *About 38% of our waste is paper/ cardboard.* Use recycled paper products where possible e.g. toilet paper, tissues
 - ❖ Listen to the news on TV or radio rather than buy newspapers and magazines
 - ❖ Recycle paper, glass, plastic and metal waste.
 - ❖ Use a compost bin or worm farm for food scraps and organic wastes. *Avoid putting in the rubbish bin, as they produce methane in landfill.*
 - ❖ Put a no junk mail sign on your letterbox. Junk mail can be accessed online.
5. **Housing and possessions - Embodied energy used to make your housing and possessions accounts for over 20% of domestic emissions**
 - ❖ Live in an energy efficient house occupied to capacity. When building, use lighter, low energy materials and passive solar design principles and insulate your home.
 - ❖ Only have possessions that you'll use often. Hire, share or borrow rather than buy.
 - ❖ Have an energy audit of your home or office to find ways to make it more efficient.
6. **Water – water supply is a major issue for sustainability, as the climate dries & warms.**
 - ❖ Install dual flush toilet systems, grey water recycling, rainwater tank/s, AAA rated washing machines (rebates available). Repair leaks. Do not waste water.
 - ❖ Do not water garden more than necessary, even if you have a bore
 - ❖ Use mulch and plant native plants in garden and on verge.
 - ❖ Install water saver shower heads; keep showers short (saves heating energy too)
 - ❖ Create an environmentally friendly garden by using native plants