

What Can I Do? – Taking Action on Climate Change in Maple Ridge

When We're At Home...

- ✓ Monitor your energy bills – when you notice an increase in your bills, you may be able to tie it to something you're doing at home and make changes to save money and reduce energy consumption.
- ✓ Examine your energy use with an Energy Meter available for loan from the Library.
- ✓ Turn off lights when not needed or use timers, occupancy sensors, or natural light when possible.
- ✓ Turning off equipment and unplug when not in use to discourage phantom power usage.
- ✓ Turn on energy efficient settings on equipment ex. Eco Print, EnergyStar setting for monitors, air-dry setting on dishwashers, etc.
- ✓ Insulate old hot water tanks and piping and turn down the temperature setting on your water heater to cut energy consumption. It's usually set to 60 degrees Celsius and can safely be reduced to 54 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- ✓ Turning down/up thermostats or use a programmable thermostat to reduce heating and cooling requirements seasonally or while buildings are unoccupied.
- ✓ Close your drapes and blinds at night to keep heat trapped in the winter and open then during the day to capture heat in the winter.
- ✓ Close your drapes and blinds in the day to reduce heat inside during the summer. When closed and lowered on a sunny window, reflective blinds (white or near white) are capable of reducing heat gain by 45 percent.
- ✓ Check your home insurance to see what you are covered for in extreme weather events or flooding.
- ✓ Keep informed of local weather and prepare for emergency events.
- ✓ Have a back-up energy/power source in case of extreme weather or blackouts.
- ✓ Create an Emergency Plan and a Household Emergency Kit.
- ✓ Check your lot grading to ensure that water flows away from your home and basement properly.
- ✓ Consider taking public transit, biking, walking carpooling or signing up for a Carshare membership to reduce your personal transportation emissions.
- ✓ Eat local produce for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- ✓ Plant a vegetable and herb garden to produce more local food and save money at the grocery store.
- ✓ Plant trees to reduce emissions, provide shade and increase water retention.
- ✓ Take shorter showers and turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or soaping up your hands to use less water.
- ✓ Fix any leaks in taps or showers to reduce wasting water.
- ✓ Consider low-flow toilets and appliances.
- ✓ Always completely fill your laundry machines and dishwashers before turning on a load and use energy-saving cycle settings.
- ✓ Rinse and wash clothes with cold water and hang clothes to dry.