



Kansas City

Board of Public Utilities • 540 MINNESOTA AVENUE • KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101 • (913) 573-9000

Economic Development and Retail Services Department Climate Change, Things You Can Do

<http://www.epa.gov>

March 23, 2009

At Home

Change Five lights

Change a light, and you help change the world. Replace the conventional incandescent bulbs in your 5 most frequently used light fixtures with CFL bulbs that have the ENERGY STAR® label and you will help the environment while saving money on energy bills. If every household in the United States took this one simple action we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars.

Look for ENERGY STAR® qualified products

When buying new products, such as appliances for your home, get the features and performance you want and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Look for ENERGY STAR® qualified products in more than 50 product categories, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment and appliances.

Heat and cool smartly

Simple steps like cleaning air filters regularly and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions. When it's time to replace your old equipment, choose a high-efficiency model, and make sure it is properly sized and installed.

Seal and insulate your home

Sealing air leaks and adding more insulation to your home is a great do-it-yourself project. The biggest leaks are usually found in the attic and basement. If you are planning to replace windows, choose ENERGY STAR® qualified windows for better performance. Forced air ducts that run through unconditioned spaces are often big energy wasters. Seal and insulate any ducts in attics and crawlspaces to improve the efficiency of your home.

Not sure where to begin?

A home energy auditor can also help you find air leaks, areas with poor insulation, and evaluate the over-all energy efficiency of your home. By taking these steps, you can eliminate drafts, keep your home more comfortable year-round, save energy that would otherwise be wasted and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Use green power

Green power is environmentally friendly-electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources such as wind and the sun. There are two ways to use green power: you can receive green power from your utility, or you can modify your house to generate your own green power.

Receiving green power from BPU is easy as we have a purchase arrangement with a wind-generating company in central Kansas whereby the utility receives energy from a 25 MW purchase agreement that flows into the system in the form of our "purchase power costs" appearing on your bill as an ERC charge. That offers a number of environmental and economic benefits over conventional electricity, including lower greenhouse gas emissions, and it helps increase clean energy supply.

There are a number of steps you can take yourself to create a greener home, including installing solar panels and researching federal tax credits for renewable energy. At this time Kansas does not offer tax credits in the State.



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Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and cans. Use products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials. Reducing, reusing and recycling in your home helps conserve energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing and disposal.

Be green in your yard

Use a push mower, which unlike a gas or electric mower, consumes no fossil fuels and emits no greenhouse gases. If you do use a power mower, make sure it is a mulching mower to reduce grass clippings. Composting your food and yard waste reduces the amount of garbage that you send to landfills and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. See EPA's GreenScapes (<http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/rrr/greenscapes/index.htm>) program for tips on how to improve your lawn or garden while also benefiting, the environment. Smart Landscaping can save energy, save you money and reduce your household's greenhouse gas emissions.

Use water efficiently

Saving water around the home is simple. Municipal water systems like BPU require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households, and saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions. Look for products with EPA's WaterSense® label; these products save water and perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts. There are also simple actions you can take to save water:

- Be smart when irrigating your lawn or landscape
- Only water when needed and do it during the coolest part of the day, early morning is best
- Turn the water off while shaving or brushing teeth
- Do not use your toilet as a wastebasket - water is wasted with each flush
- Repair all toilet and faucet leaks right away as a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day.

See EPA's WaterSense® site (<http://www.epa.gov/watersense>) for more water saving tips

Spread the Word

Tell family and friends that energy efficiency is good for their homes and for the environment because it lowers greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. By sharing with family and friends we can help our homes help us.

At The Office

Manage office equipment's energy use better

Office equipment and electronics use energy even when idle or on standby. Studies show that office equipment in the standby mode consumes 15percent of the power they use when in work mode. To save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at work, always activate the power management features on your computer and monitor, unplug laptop power cords when not in use and turn off equipment and lights at the end of the day. Consider using a power strip that can be turned off when you're done using your computers, printers, wireless routers and other electronics.

Look for ENERGY STAR® qualified products for the office

When purchasing new products for your office at work or at home, get the features and performance you want and help reduce greenhouse gases and emissions of air pollutants. Look for ENERGY STAR® qualified office equipment, such as computers, copiers and printers, in addition to more than 50 product categories, including lighting, heating and cooling equipment and commercial appliances.

Ask your office building manager if your office building has earned ENERGY STAR® Certification

ENERGY STAR-labeled buildings provide safe, healthy and productive environments that use 35 percent less energy than average buildings. Their efficient use of energy also reduces the total operational cost of the building.



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Use less energy for your commute

Switch to public transportation, carpooling, biking, telecommuting and other innovative ways to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on your way to and from work. Encourage your employer to offer commuter benefits that address limited or expensive parking, reduce traffic congestion, improve employee recruiting and retention and minimize the environmental impacts associated with drive-alone commuting. If you do drive, find out the fuel efficiency of your vehicle using EPA's and DOE's fuel economy Web site, and make more environmentally-informed choices when purchasing your next vehicle by using EPA's Green Vehicle Guide.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Recycle office paper, newspapers, beverage containers, electronic equipment and batteries. Reducing, reusing and recycling in your office helps conserve energy, and reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from resource extraction, manufacturing and disposal. You can reduce, reuse and recycle at the office by using two-sided printing and copying; buying supplies made with recycled content; and recycling used printer cartridges. For your old electronics, investigate leasing programs to ensure reuse and recycling or donate used equipment to schools or other organizations.

At School

Students bring science to life

Explore the Climate Change Kids Site (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html>) and watch Climate Animations that bring to life science and the impacts of climate change. The site also provides games that help students, their parents and their teachers learn about both the science of climate change and what actions they can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

High school students - check the climate impact of your school

High school students can investigate the link between everyday actions at their high school, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Using EPA's Climate Change Emission Calculator Kit, students can learn about climate change, estimate their school's greenhouse gas emissions and conceptualize ways to mitigate their school's climate impact. Students gain detailed understanding of climate-change drivers, impacts and science; produce an emission inventory and action plan; and can even submit the results of their emission inventory to their school district. You can also use Portfolio Manager to compare the energy use of your school with other schools nationwide, and earn the ENERGY STAR for your school if it qualifies as a top performer.

Get involved at your college or university

College students can play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions at their colleges or universities by reducing emissions from energy they use in dorm rooms. Students can also work with school administrators to increase energy efficiency on campus, reduce their school's greenhouse gas emissions by using green power, create a campus climate action plan, or develop an inventory of their school's greenhouse gas emissions.

Educators teach students about climate change and ecosystems

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/CCWKit2008.html>

Use the Climate Change, Wildlife and Wildlands: A Toolkit for Teachers and Interpreters to learn about the science of climate change and its potential effects on our nation's wildlife and their habitats.

Engage middle school students in estimating emissions

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/wheel_card.html

Enhance critical thinking skills by introducing the Global Warming Wheel Card Classroom Activity Kit to middle school students. A hand-held wheel card and other resources help students estimate household greenhouse gas emissions in order to encourage students to think about ways to reduce their personal, family, school and community contributions to climate change. If you are an informal educator, simply use the Global Warming Wheel Card as a part of your field activities.



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Learn from other educators

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/WebSearchResults?OpenForm&%5BresContent%5D%2BCONTAINS%27Educators%27>

Investigate what other schools and organizations are doing to educate students on climate change by clicking on Educators' Links, a searchable database offering resources such as lesson plans, videos, books and toolkits.

Administrators save money and the environment

The least efficient schools use three times more energy than the best energy performers. By partnering with the highly successful ENERGY STAR for K-12 program

(http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=k12_schools.bus_schoolsk12) and using Portfolio Manager (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=eligibility.bus_portfoliomanager_eligibility) to track and rate the energy performance of your portfolio of school buildings, school districts can serve as environmental leaders in their community, become energy efficient, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money!

Estimate your emissions and take the challenge

School Administrators can also work to reduce their school's greenhouse gas emissions by developing an inventory (<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/toolkit/>) of their school's emissions or by taking the 2006 College and University Green Power Challenge (http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/initiatives/cu_challenge.htm).

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Recycle school or classroom paper, newspapers, beverage containers, electronic equipment and batteries.

Reducing, reusing and recycling at school and in the classroom helps conserve energy while reducing pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing and disposal. You can reduce, reuse and recycle at school or in the classroom by using two-sided printing and copying; buying supplies made with recycled content; and recycling used printer cartridges. For your old electronics, investigate leasing programs to ensure reuse and recycling or donate used equipment to schools or other organizations.