

# What can I do about climate change?



## LEARN THE BASICS

The basic facts of climate change, uncovered by more than 150 years of research, can be summarized in 5 key points.

**IT'S REAL** Observations from thousands of weather stations around the world show our world has warmed 1.9°F since 1880.

**IT'S US** Human activity is the main cause of warming over the past century.

**EXPERTS AGREE** There's scientific consensus, based on thousands of studies, that human activity is the primary cause.

**IT'S BAD** The impacts are serious and are already affecting people.

**THERE'S HOPE** We have the technology needed to avoid the worst climate impacts.



## KNOW YOUR IMPACT

The total amount of greenhouse gases that are generated by our actions is called a carbon footprint.

**CALCULATE** The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 3 times the global average. You can estimate your own footprint using online tools like the US EPA Household Carbon Footprint Calculator.

**EVALUATE** Everyday things that you can do to reduce your personal contribution to a warming planet include reducing food waste, improving energy efficiency in your home, and evaluating your modes of transportation.

Lasting solutions to climate change will require action on a global scale but bringing down our personal footprint will pave the way for bigger change.



## TALK ABOUT IT

Talking about climate change with family and friends can increase awareness of the impacts and solutions. Here are some tips for productive conversations.

**CONNECTION** Show the relationship between climate change and the things your friends and family care about.

**DIALOG** Have a conversation— not a lecture—and remember to ask questions about how they feel and what they think.

**OPTIMISM** Talk about solutions, many of which have health benefits, save money, and preserve resources.

**PERSISTENCE** Look for opportunities to weave climate change into other discussions, like when you're talking about weather extremes or traffic congestion.



## ENGAGE NOW

Climate change can no longer be considered a problem of the future. It's happening now. Our actions today will determine tomorrow's climate and its consequences.

**ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP** Your vote, at the local, state and federal level matters—aspects of the climate change problem require transformations that only government intervention can make.

**CLIMATE LEADERSHIP** Your voice matters—support climate-friendly policies and investments in organizations you care about: your business, school, place of worship, and social clubs.

