



GOING GREEN

Practical steps for saving money and shrinking your footprint

Energy

Easy

- Turn off lights and other electronics when not in use
 - Try using a power strip to turn off electronics to avoid “phantom drain”
- Switch incandescent light bulbs to LEDs
 - LEDs contain no mercury and save ~\$100 per bulb over their lifetime compared to incandescent lights
- Adjust your thermostat to match the weather
- Change your HVAC air filters regularly
- Wash clothes in cool water and dry outside if possible
 - Clothes dryers can use as much power as a new refrigerator, dishwasher, and clothes washer *combined*
- Set hot water heater appropriately
 - If your water can get too hot to hold your hand under, it's too hot
- Keep fridge & freezer clean and tightly sealed
 - Keep your fridge between 28-42°F and your freezer between 0-5°F
 - If you can easily pull out a dollar bill shut in the door, replace the gasket

Moderate

- Install automatic/motion sensor lights & programmable thermostat
 - Using a programmable thermostat can cut your energy bill by 20-30%
- Check your insulation and replace when needed
- Invest in ENERGY STAR appliances
 - Find products and rebate offers at energystar.gov
- Tell your local government that you support Community Choice Energy (CCE)
 - Monterey Bay Community Power (mbcommunitypower.org) is the CCE for Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz

Advanced

- Install insulating windows where possible
- Invest in solar panels & energy storage systems
 - Check out Property Assessed Clean Energy programs in your city or county for affordable financing options

Transportation

Easy

- Carpool, walk, bike, or take public transportation when possible
- Drive more efficiently
 - Avoid rapid starts and stops to decrease fuel use up to 40% and toxic emissions by up to 50%
 - Keep your engine well maintained to boost fuel economy by up to 50%
 - Try not to idle for more than one minute – turn off your engine instead (except in traffic)
 - Park in the shade when possible to minimize fuel evaporation

Moderate

- Lobby your local elected officials to get more (and better!) public transportation options
- Provide premium parking for fuel efficient vehicles at your church, school, or work

Advanced

- Invest in hybrid or electric vehicles
 - Many models are affordably priced and have ranges comparable to all-gas cars
- Install electric car charging stations at your church, school, or work



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Water

Easy

- Shut off water when you aren't actively using it
- Check toilets and sinks for slow leaks
- Take shorter showers and showers instead of baths
- Use dishwasher and washing machine only when full and limit hand washing
- Use a home water filtration system instead of bottled water
 - Bottled water is up to 10,000x more expensive and is subject to fewer health regulations (and is often just tap water!)
 - If your tap water has a chlorine taste let it sit for an hour to allow the chlorine to evaporate, try a refillable water filtration pitcher, or look online for a local company to install an under-the-sink system like a reverse osmosis (RO) filter

Moderate

- Promptly repair leaks
 - A 1-drop-per-minute leak can add up to 2,700 gallons of water wasted in a year
- Install low-flow toilets, faucets, and shower heads
 - Low-flow or dual flush toilets can cut water use by 40-50%
- Reduce outdoor water use with water efficient landscaping
 - Using drought-tolerant plants, drip irrigation, and reclaimed water can give you a beautiful (and cheap!) eco-friendly landscape
- Switch to a front-loading washing machine instead of a top-loading one
- Invest in a water-efficient dishwasher

Advanced

- Find out who your local water management agency is and get involved!

Consumption & Waste

Easy

- Reduce, reuse, & recycle
 - Go paperless at home, church, and work as much as possible
- Vote with your wallet – shop responsibly!
 - Try to be aware of where and how the things you buy are made
- Use recyclable or reusable dining ware for church or work events
- Eat less animal products
 - Beef and dairy are especially damaging to the planet because cattle produce large amounts of methane during digestion
- Choose organic & locally grown food if possible
 - Prices of organic and local foods have dropped greatly in recent years due to increased demand
- Limit food waste as much as possible
 - About 40% of food in the U.S. ends up in landfills, where it contributes to global warming as it rots

Moderate

- Grow your own food at your home, school, or parish
- Start composting programs

Advanced

- Live simply



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