

CLIMATE CHANGE: Ways to personally make a difference

#	ACTION	EXPLANATION	REFERENCE
1	Switch to "green" power	Renewable electricity from sun, wind, water and waste	Accredited options are at www.greenpower.gov.au www.energysmart.com.au
2	Install solar hot water system	Up to 30% reduction in household emissions Can also insulate your existing hot water system and pipes	www.sea.vic.gov.au/renewable_energy/ www.rinnai.com.au www.solahart.com.au www.simplyinsulate.com
3	Install solar panels	Eliminate household emissions from electricity; can also solar heat swimming pool	www.silver.com.au www.bp.com.au/solar
4	Use energy efficient whitegoods	Up to 50% reduction in household emissions from electricity Other tips: full washing & dishwashing loads, hand wash dishes & use clothes line whenever possible	www.energyrating.gov.au www.greenhouse.gov.au www.energyallstars.gov.au
5	Use triple-A rated shower-head	Up to 12% reduction in household emissions	Plumber www.greenhouse.gov.au www.wsaa.asn.au
6	Use energy efficient light globes	Up to 10% reduction in household emissions; energy saving downlights also now available.	Available from supermarkets, hardware & lighting stores. www.greenhouse.gov.au www.neco.com.au
7	Check fuel efficiency of next car	Up to 70% reduction in transport emissions. Other tips: avoid idling, avoid peak hour traffic, stick to speed limit; avoid changing over cars frequently (manufactur'g CO2)	www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au
8	Walk, cycle, public transport or car pool		www.travelsmart.gov.au
9	Less air travel, telecommute more	Or offset travel through carbon credits	www.easybeinggreen.com.au and see below
10	Calculate carbon & eco footprint - Offset with carbon credits	Calculators help you identify the amount of carbon produced by your household. Offset carbon emissions via carbon credits.	www.climatefriendly.com/calc.php www.climatecrisis.net www.energyguide.com www.ecofoot.org www.easybeinggreen.com.au www.todae.com.au (Glebe store)
11	Educate yourself about climate change	Enormous amount of info available – books, websites, media. Article by Ross Gittins in SMH 31/3-1/4 p47 explaining difference between carbon tax and carbon trading	General environmental organisations: www.wwf.org.au (sponsor Earth Hour) www.cana.net.au (excellent info papers) www.acfonline.org.au www.cleanup.com.au www.conservationvolunteers.com.au www.foe.org.au www.greenpeace.org.au

			www.planetark.org www.climateinstitute.org.au Sir Nicholas Stern – Economics of Climate Change www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm
12	Involve the kids	The earlier the better – and nothing like kids to keep you honest!	www.powerhousemuseum.com/exhibitions/ecologic.asp www.abc.net.au/science/planetslayer www.neco.com.au (products/books)
13	Reduce, re-use, recycle and repair (4Rs)	Kitchen bin for food scraps the toss them into a compost bin or worm farm for food for the garden.	Consume less www.newdream.org General www.recyclingnearyou.com.au Computer recycling: www.b2crecyclers.com.au www.dell.com.au/recycle/home Phone recycling: www.mobilemuster.com.au www.mobilephonerecycling.com.au Sustainability www.isf.uts.edu.au Sustainable home design www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/
14	Opt for less packaging where possible	Buy bigger quantities, boycott brands overweight in packaging	www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?contentid=2194 www.neco.com.au www.energyrating.gov.au
15	Switch appliances off at power point	Reduce standby power waste e.g. 25% of energy is used by TV is when it is not on	Switch off or even better unplug!
16	Reusable bags and bottles	Reduce paper and plastic bag use; take own refillable bottle for drinks rather than buy single use plastic bottles.	Keep reusable bags in handy places. Howard Storage have great light handbag size reusable bags (size of key wallet).
17	Sustainable investment choices	Returns are competitive! (I declare my conflict of interest!)	www.eia.org.au www.ethicalinvestor.com.au
18	Eat less meat & buy local produce	Eating one 150g meat serve fewer each week will save 10,000 litres of water & 300kg of emissions a year. Fruit/veg/grains use 95% less materials to produce.	Local markets (not sure if there is a directory for these?)
19	Save and recycle water; Save hot water	Set hot water to lower temperature; shower rather than bath; shower 3-4 mins; wash clothes in cold water; rainwater tanks.	www.savewater.com.au Grey water recycling www.nubian.com.au Rainwater tanks www.neco.com.au www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/RainwaterTanks/ www.choice.com.au
20	Use less heating and air-conditioning	A few degrees lower/higher in winter (18-21)/summer (23-26) saves significant energy; set cycle to 'recirculate' air.	Put on a jumper or take off your clothes before reaching for the thermostat button! Better for skin and wallet too.

Sources: The Weather Makers, True Green, An Inconvenient Truth, The 3rd Degree, WWF website.

Sorry – I can't recommend all of these providers because I haven't used them, but am aware they exist and what service they provide.