

Climate Change

How you can make a difference



Climate change is the single biggest environmental threat facing the world today. In Queensland, climate change is expected to have many impacts, including warmer temperatures, rising sea levels, changes in rainfall patterns and more intense storms and tropical cyclones.

This tip sheet provides information and advice about how, through simple daily changes, you can play a part in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are accelerating climate change.

Electricity generation and transport are two of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas production. Using less power or driving less and using public transport more are powerful weapons in fighting the impacts of climate change.

The Queensland Government is encouraging people to combat climate change in a number of ways including initiatives such as the Queensland Climate Change Fund and the ClimateSmart Living campaign. But there are a number

of things you can do right now to make a difference.

1. Support green power schemes

Green power is a voluntary scheme that gives you the option to support renewable energy by making a small extra payment with your electricity bill.

Renewable energy comes from sources such as the sun, wind, wave, water, geothermal energy and organic matter. Generating electricity from these sources reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reduces impacts on the environment.

2. Leave your car at home

Driving a car is the single most polluting thing most of us do. When travelling to and from work or school try riding your bike, car pooling with others or catching public transport. Next time you fill up your car with unleaded petrol, try using E10 (10 per cent ethanol blend). It will run in most 1990 or newer model cars, and is better for

the environment. If you are in the market for a new car, think about purchasing a 'greener' car (such as a hybrid-engined model, an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle rated model, or a turbo-diesel car).

3. Check your fridge temperature

Many household fridges are over-chilled. Four degrees celsius is all you need to keep food cool and safe. Make sure there is a gap of at least 5 cm between your fridge and the wall on all sides so that air can flow freely. Restricting the air flow can add up to 15 per cent to your fridge's running costs.

4. Keep cool with fans and use air conditioning efficiently

Fans are the most energy-efficient cooling system, saving money and producing less greenhouse gas. The optimum temperature for air conditioners is 24 degrees and they work best when you keep curtains closed and close doors to areas that don't need to be cooled.

5. Lower your hot water temperature

Reducing the temperature on your hot water system's thermostat by as little as 5 degrees Celcius can reduce your water heating bill by up to 20 per cent. The minimum temperature should be 60 degrees Celcius for health and safety.

6. Install energy-efficient light bulbs

Conventional incandescent light bulbs use 95 per cent of their energy producing heat and only 5 per cent for generating light, making them very inefficient. Compact fluorescent lights (CFL) last six to 15 times longer and use up to 80 per cent less energy than incandescent light bulbs, saving you money and reducing greenhouse gases.

7. Be water wise

A tap that leaks, dripping at one drip per second, will waste 10,000 litres of water a year. Replacing a tap washer is inexpensive and takes just minutes.

Have you considered installing a rainwater tank? They come in a range of shapes and sizes and rebates are available from the Queensland Government and some local councils.

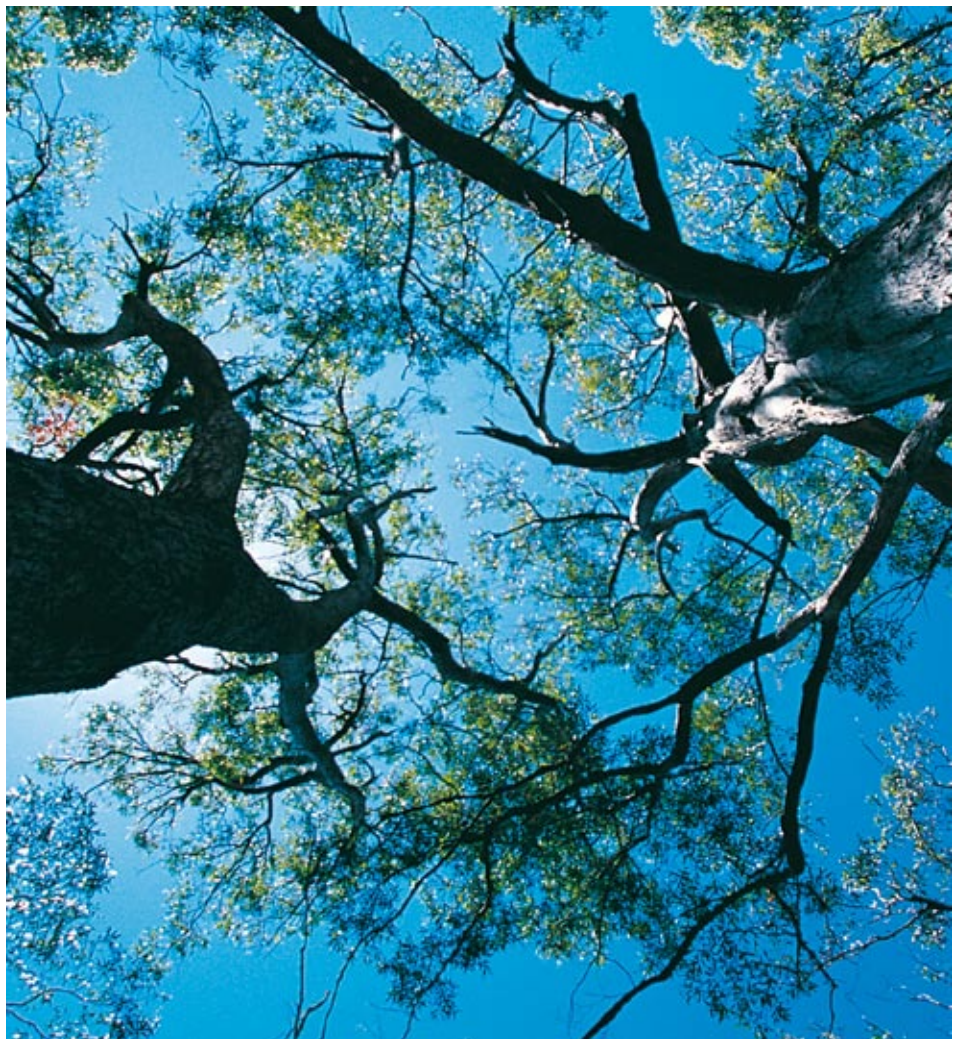
In addition to your rainwater tank, use other water-saving devices including dual-flush toilets and at least three star-rated showerheads to save more money on your water bill.

8. Only use your dishwasher when you have a full load

Make sure your dishwasher is packed properly. Large items such as saucepans should be washed in the sink. Use the economy settings and choose the most economical program that gives a satisfactory wash using the lowest temperature or shortest running-time.

9. Let your clothes dry naturally

Use the economy settings and try to wash a full load of clothes, but don't overload the machine. Drying your clothes in the sun rather than in the clothes dryer is the most energy- and



cost-efficient choice potentially saving you around 500 kg of greenhouse gas each year.

10. Turn off appliances at the wall when you are not using them

Your home appliances may be using standby power if they are still turned on at the wall. Standby power can account for four per cent per cent of your electricity bill. Turn off non-essential appliances at the wall, or buy products with low standby power use.

11. Regularly check the pressure of your tyres

Correct tyre pressure improves fuel efficiency and therefore reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It also helps extend the life of your tyre as well as improving vehicle safety and handling.

12. Use water-efficient appliances and fittings to limit water waste

Replace your old toilet with a dual-flush system (a rebate may be available when replacing the entire suite). A three- and six-litre dual-flush cistern can halve the amount of water used. A three-star rated showerhead can reduce your energy bill by a fifth if you have an electric hot water system.

More information

ClimateSmart Living

For more tips on how you can live Climate Smart or to calculate how much carbon your household uses visit www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au

Climate change in Queensland

www.climatechange.qld.gov.au