



Top Ways to Solve Global Warming and Its Impacts on Birds

All of us have a role to play in reducing the worst impacts of global warming. As individuals and engaged citizens, we can all take steps to reduce our energy use, switch to cleaner sources of power, and encourage our leaders to take immediate action. Here's a short list:

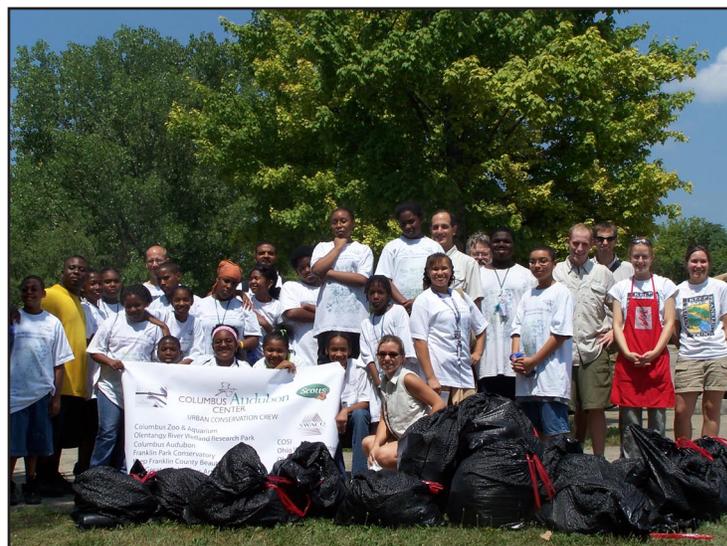
Be an Active Citizen

Join Audubon's activist team and urge our elected official to make global warming a top priority by signing our petition at birdsandclimate.org. Voice your support for a new approach that will help solve global warming, move us toward a 100 percent clean energy future, reduce our dependence on oil, and protect our environment. Stay informed, write letters to your leaders, and support candidates who promise to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb global warming.



Determine Your Energy Profile and Carbon Footprint

An energy audit assesses how much energy you consume and a carbon footprint determines how much greenhouse gas you emit into the atmosphere. Knowing these figures can help you evaluate what measures you can take to make your home, school, or office more energy efficient. There are numerous carbon footprint calculators available on the Internet.



Get Involved in Your Community

Support conservation initiatives that protect and restore essential bird habitat and keep it healthy so it can withstand the impacts of global warming. Visit Audubon.org to learn how the Important Bird Areas program is building a national network of conservation stewards and volunteer to get involved in your community.



*TogetherGreen Volunteer Days event,
Miami, FL, September 2008*

Reduce Energy Consumption

Save money and energy by switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs and maximize natural sunlight for daytime lighting needs. Reduce excessive use of home heating and cooling and weatherize your home. Buy energy efficient appliances such as those that are “Energy Star” compliant.



Eat Locally Grown and Organic Produce

Buy local produce and other goods. The fewer miles your produce travels, the less energy is used for refrigeration and transportation. Select organic produce. The pesticides used to kill pests also kill the organisms that help keep carbon dioxide in the soil.

Shop Smarter

Manufacturing, packing, transporting, and selling goods not only use huge amounts of energy but also release excessive amounts of greenhouse gases. When shopping, always ask, “Do I really need this? Does the Earth really need this?” You’ll probably save money as well. Skip the shopping bag or bring your own reusable bags.



Save Gas and Money

Use public transportation, ride your bicycle, walk, carpool, and drive a more energy-efficient vehicle. When you drive, keep your tires properly inflated to increase fuel efficiency. As a bonus, you will lower your fuel costs and improve your health.



TogetherGreen Volunteer Days event, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, TX, May 2008

Plant More Trees and Buy Good Wood

An average tree absorbs ten pounds of pollutants from the air each year, including four pounds of ground level ozone and three pounds of particulates. So, plant leafy trees around your house to provide windbreaks and summer shade. When shopping for wood, ask about certified wood to support sustainably managed forests that are bird-friendly.



Switch to Green Power

Power plants are the single largest source of heat-trapping gases in the United States, but in some states you can switch to utilities that provide 50 to 100 percent renewable energy. You may

also want to consider installing solar panels on your home.