

Easy Actions to Save the Earth 2026

Our values call on us to confront the climate crisis with BOLD ACTION:

Use the resources listed here to help revitalize our environment and planet. Encourage your friends, congregations, and communities to do the same. Find an 'Eco-Buddy' to take action with and track what you've each accomplished in a year. Every call, email, and action counts.

Climate Actions YOU Can Take + Resources to Help

Learn Your Best Ways to Slow Climate Change:

Start with Project Drawdown's *Shift* to see where *your actions* as a citizen, professional, investor, consumer & role model have the most impact: <https://jointheshift.earth/>.

Learn Which Climate Solutions Matter the Most:

Project Drawdown's *Explorer* Tool shares the best science-based strategies available today, the most promising solutions ahead, and the over-hyped stinkers to drop: <https://drawdown.org/explorer>.

Quick, Easy Ways to Advocate with Environmental Decision-Makers:

We can counter polluters' influence by voting wisely and contacting legislators, agencies, and others on pending policy decisions.

- **Local officials** want to please voters and have the power to get things done.
- Work with your neighbors, mayor and city council. Even one meeting can lead to change: <https://earthtalk.org/how-you-can-urge-leaders-in-your-community-to-adopt-eco-friendly-practices/>

- Does your town have a climate action plan? Check online or call to find out. Connect them with [Power a Clean Future Ohio](#) to get expert, hands-on guidance.
- If they have a plan, who's responsible for making it happen? Do they need to hire a sustainability coordinator or start a green team to move it forward?
- Are you willing to help? Let them know.

The following non-partisan groups & tools share timely ways to quickly call or email our **state and federal** decision-makers and submit agency comments. Subscribe to action alerts and share with others:

Progressive Secretary

<https://progressivesecretary.salsalabs.org/progressivesecretary>

Earthjustice

<https://earthjustice.org/action/alerts>

Sierra Club

<https://www.sierraclub.org/take-action>

Sierra Club Ohio

<https://www.sierraclub.org/ohio/legislative-action>

5 Calls Website & App

<https://5calls.org/all/> & download the free app.

Resistbot

<https://resist.bot/guide>

Donate to Innovative Groups Making the Biggest Impact:

Vox updates the best places to donate to fight climate change each year:

<https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2019/12/2/20976180/climate-change-best-charities-effective-philanthropy>

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Switch to Responsible Banks, Credit Cards, Insurers & Investments:

Learn why your \$\$ may harm the planet far more than your 'carbon footprint':

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2023-01-18/fossil-fuel-expansion-bank-financed-emissions>.

Research your banks, credit cards, insurance companies & investments' climate impact: Engage with them to do better or move to greener institutions and funds. Ask your employer & local governments to do the same. *Green investing has outperformed fossil fuel investing for years.*

Resources to Help You Choose:

<https://www.greenamerica.org/getabetterbank> or <https://stopthemoneypipeline.com/move-your-money/> or <https://mightydeposits.com/posts/where-banks-invest-money> and <https://greenamerica.org/climate-smart-insurance-directory>.

Clean 200 –

Companies building a sustainable world:

<https://fossilfreefunds.org/clean-200> or <https://fossilfreefunds.org/funds?dsc=false&sr=t=c2f5coogutweight>

As You Sow rates each fund's climate impact: <https://www.asyousow.org/invest-your-values>

Fly Less!

Our biggest climate impact as consumers is air travel. Enjoy train, bus or road trips. Consider a pledge not to fly for one year: <https://westayontheground.org/questions-and-answers/>

Improve Your Diet:

Get healthier by choosing a variety of protein-rich foods. Save high-emission-causing beef or lamb for celebrations or add small amounts to soup or stews. Here's why:

<https://drawdown.org/explorer/improve-diets>.

Choose 100% Renewably Sourced Electricity:

Go to <https://energychoice.ohio.gov/>; click the Apples-to-Apples charts; select your current electric company, then specify you want provider choices offering '76% to 100% renewable energy. Compare offers and switch your provider.

Some communities offer 100% renewable electricity aggregation plans for residents & businesses. Ask your leaders if they provide this service and sign up. If not, urge them to do so. **SOPEC** offers affordable 100% renewable electric aggregation plans.

Choose Paper Products that Don't Destroy Old Forests:

[https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/Issue with Tissue SC FS 25-12-A 03 locked.pdf](https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/Issue%20with%20Tissue%20SC%20FS%2025-12-A%2003%20locked.pdf)

Increase Energy Efficiency & Electrify Your Home & Transport:

These websites can guide homeowners and renters step-by-step. Though Inflation Reduction Act tax credits for families have ended, many state & local funds can help: <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/electrify-home-guide> and <https://www.poweracleanfuture.org/ira-resources-for-ohio-residents> and <https://greenhome.osu.edu/>.

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Electrify Everything in Your Home (PDF):

<https://a-us.storyblok.com/f/1021068/x/7862fe228f/electrify-home-guide.pdf>.

Increase Your Home's Energy Efficiency:

To save money, reduce energy loss & make your home or office more comfortable, sign up for an energy audit and discover subsidized ways to weatherize your space:
<https://www.shakerheightsoh.gov/888/Home-Energy-Efficiency>

Ohio Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Programs:

<https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/oh> and
<https://development.ohio.gov/individual/energy-assistance>.

Consider Heat Pumps, Solar Panels, Solar Water Heaters & Battery Storage:

All About Heat Pumps:

<https://www.pickhvac.com/geothermal-air-source-heat-pumps-cost-efficiency-climate/>

All About Solar:

<https://greenhome.osu.edu/renewables/photo-voltaics>

Solar Panel Co-ops:

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/>

Solar Water Heaters:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/solar-water-heaters>

Plug-In Solar:

<https://pvgis.com/en/blog/plug-and-play-solar-panels-buyers-guide>

All About Home Battery Systems:

<https://greatergrid.com/learn/the-ultimate-guide-to-buying-a-home-solar-battery-system-in-2026>

Removing natural gas from your kitchen & home offers instant health & safety benefits, especially for children. Renters with gas ranges can buy low-cost induction burners:
<https://ecoblock.berkeley.edu/blog/goodbye-gas-the-benefits-of-phasing-out-natural-gas-in-homes/>.

Consider Electric Cars, Hybrids & E-Bikes:

<https://cleanfuelsohio.org/drive-electric-ohio/>
<https://www.brandebikes.com/guides/ebike-vs-car/>

Reduce Food Waste:

Methane from rotting food heats the climate 80 times as much as carbon. Reducing food waste is the third most powerful way to cut future gigatons of emissions heating our planet. Americans waste almost 40% of our food supply – close to 120 billion pounds of food or 325 pounds per person each year. (<https://www.rts.com/resources/guides/food-waste-america/>).

Here are easy ways to ensure your food scraps won't heat the planet:

- Buy fewer groceries. Learn best practices to keep food fresh. Learn to freeze or repurpose scraps. Learn about food expiration dates: Over 80% of us throw out good food because labels mislead us.
- Ask your grocer to donate and recycle all unsold food. Urge them to buy 'misfit' produce so farmers don't have to leave 30-40% of their crops to rot.
- Live in an apartment? Try a countertop Bokashi kit or worm farm to compost food into soil.

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- Live in a house? Start a backyard compost bin or pile for food and garden waste.
- Get chickens or a goat to eat your scraps and give you fertilizer in return. A surprising number of towns allow this.
- For a small fee, renters, homeowners, businesses & non-profit groups in NE Ohio can pay [Rust Belt Riders](#) to compost their food scraps, even animal products & some paper products. Several communities offer this service for free. Urge your city to do the same!
- Call your legislators to ensure federal and state policies help farmers increase climate, soil, and water resilience.

Restore Biodiversity, Yard by Yard:

Join the movement to regenerate biodiversity, sequester carbon, and feed bees, birds & butterflies by growing native plants, providing nest sites, and avoiding pesticides. Even potted plants on balconies or patios count.

Why we need pollinators:

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>

Keystone plants are natives critical to the food web that many wildlife species require. Without keystone plants, butterflies, native bees & birds can't grow and thrive.

Downloadable Lists of Keystone Native Trees and Plants for Our Region:

Homegrown National Park Keystone Trees:

<https://bit.ly/49nda1D>

National Wildlife Federation Chart of

Keystone Native Plants: <https://bit.ly/3wo413r>

Local Resources:

<https://www.ecologicalheights.com/heights-native-pollinator-pathway>

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/great-lakes>

Add your yard to the [Homegrown National Park](#).

Plant Native Trees:

Learn about the myriad climate, community and health benefits of planting more trees:

<https://www.heightstreepeople.com/why-trees>

Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents can get free front yard trees planted by [Heights Tree People](#).

There are thousands of ways each of us can make a difference. Get informed. Find role models and like-minded friends or groups to move forward with. Block climate doomers. And share your actions to inspire others.

Mimi Plevin-Foust, February 2026
Faith Communities Together for a
Sustainable Future (FaCT)

<https://factsustain.org/>



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