

## Your Carbon Footprint

Did you know that everyone has a carbon footprint?

You, your family, your friends... *even your pets* have a carbon footprint! A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) emitted by an individual or group.

Producing the goods we consume, the products we buy and even the normal routine activities of life generate greenhouse gases.

These greenhouse gases contribute to our changing climate. Look inside to see what you can do!

## What You Can Do

### About Climate Change Champions

**Climate Change Champions** is a program started by **Green Venture** and **Environment Hamilton** to help not-for-profit, faith groups, small businesses, schools and individuals like you reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Toolkit

The **Climate Change Hamilton** website is an excellent source for climate change resources and tools. Presentations are available to share and an online toolkit will help you measure your carbon footprint and provide tips on how to reduce your impact... **and save money!**

Take advantage of this free online resource, sign the Climate Change Action Charter and become a Climate Change Champion today!



[climatechangehamilton.ca](http://climatechangehamilton.ca)

## Community Collaboration

### The Facts Here at Home

Here in the Hamilton area, the records show that our climate has changed significantly over the last 40 years. Average annual temperatures have risen by about one degree Celsius and the patterns of precipitation have changed.

### City of Hamilton

The **City of Hamilton** is a signatory of the Hamilton Climate Change Action Charter. The City adopted an Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Plan in 2006 and has been taking action to address climate change in the areas of fleets, active transportation, reducing energy consumption, energy co-generation, waste reduction, lowering water usage, building retro-fits, and introducing an anti-idling by-law. These actions have resulted in the City's corporate greenhouse gas emissions decreasing by 16% and the City is on track to meeting its 2020 goal of a 20% reduction of 2005 emissions (2011 stats). To see the City's Plan and what the City of Hamilton is doing, please visit: [www.hamilton.ca/climatechange](http://www.hamilton.ca/climatechange)

### HCA and Climate Change

**Hamilton Conservation Authority** (HCA) is a signatory of the Climate Change Charter and has developed a Corporate Climate Change Strategy to help adapt to changing climate conditions. To learn more about HCA's climate change strategy or view more information about climate change here at home, please visit: [www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca)



This brochure was produced by Hamilton Conservation Authority with the assistance of the City of Hamilton, Environment Hamilton and Green Venture. This product is available in other accessible formats upon request.



# Climate Change In Our Own Backyard

Easy Tips to Reduce  
Your Carbon Footprint...

...and  
save  
money!



[climatechangehamilton.ca](http://climatechangehamilton.ca)



## 18 No-Cost/Low-Cost Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

**...and  
save  
money!**

- 1) Replace old cars with fuel-efficient vehicles.
- 2) Make sure your tires are properly inflated.
- 3) Turn off your vehicle. Don't idle.
- 4) Plant shade trees to shade your home in the summer.
- 5) Walk, cycle, or take public transit. (1 bus = 40 cars)
- 6) Conserve Water - turn off the tap, use a rain barrel.
- 7) Buy local foods and goods.
- 8) Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFL's or LED's.
- 9) Close curtains during hot days to cool, open in winter to heat your home.
- 10) Eliminate phantom power by unplugging devices when not in use.
- 11) Use reusable containers instead of foil or plastic.
- 12) Replace the old with new energy efficient appliances or devices.
- 13) Install low-flow showerheads, toilets, or aerators.
- 14) Conserve Energy - it's as easy as turning off the lights.
- 15) Wash in cold water.
- 16) Reduce or increase your thermostat temperature seasonally.
- 17) Turn down the temperature on your hot water heater.
- 18) Calculate your carbon emissions at [climatechangehamilton.ca](http://climatechangehamilton.ca)

**By doing any of these things you are a Climate Change Champion. For more information visit [www.climatechangehamilton.ca](http://www.climatechangehamilton.ca)**