

What You—and a Million Kids—Can Do

If a million kids replace 6 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, this stops 300,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million drivers turn off their cars for just 10 minutes a day instead of idling, this stops 27,500 tons CO₂/yr.

If a million kids recycle 50% of everything recyclable, this stops 1,200,000 tons CO₂/yr.

If each of the country's schools requires its buses (440,000 buses) to stop idling for 15 minutes per day, this stops 97,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million kids stop drinking bottled water and other drinks from plastic bottles, this stops 15,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million families drive 15 fewer miles each week, this stops 450,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million kids turn off the TV and computer for 2 hours a day, this stops 80,000 tons of CO₂/yr. Turn the computer off overnight—that's another 475,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million kids eat one less cheeseburger a week, this stops 170,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million households use cold water when washing laundry, it would stop 250,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million families switched to buying locally produced food for a year, or grow their own, it would stop up to 625,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If a million kids each plant one tree in their yards and it reaches maturity, those trees will absorb 160,000 tons of CO₂/yr.

If 250,000 families use a 40 mpg (miles per gallon) car rather than their previous car, this stops 690,000 tons CO₂/yr.



The pie chart above shows how a million kids could help save about 4.5 million tons of CO₂/yr right away—that's a coal-burning power plant we won't need! These are only some of many things you can do to reduce your climate footprint. Something else you and your family can do is so big that it's almost literally "off the chart": household appliances—washers, dryers refrigerators, etc.—use a huge amount of energy. If one million families replace their old appliances with energy-star models, it will stop more than 3,000,000 tons of CO₂/yr. There are 55 million school-age kids in the United States. Think of all that CO₂ stopped!