



carpool



produce



charger



garden



vampire appliance



mass transit

Sustainable Living: What Can YOU Do?

Climate change, overpopulation, pollution - the challenges facing the Earth today can seem almost impossible to overcome. But the contributions of every **individual** can lead to a sustainable living culture. In almost every aspect of your life, you can make choices to reduce your **carbon footprint**.

So, what can you do? First, use **mass transit** or **carpool**. Carbon dioxide emissions from cars count for over 30% of all carbon emissions.

Next, if you can, plant a **garden**. If you don't have space for one, make sure you buy **local produce**. Either way, you'll reduce the amount of fuel it takes to transport produce from far away.

You can also **conserve** water whenever possible, and small changes can lead to big savings. Grass lawns waste thousands of gallons of water. **Xeriscape** your yard to cut back on water usage. By purchasing **rain barrels**, you can water that yard without wasting a drop of water.

In your home, make sure that you unplug all **vampire appliances**. Simply unplugging your cell phone **charger** can reduce the amount of wasted electricity.

Above all else, avoid **apathy**! Get involved with the **political** process. Support **legislation** that promotes alternative energy sources, and **boycott** companies that aren't environmentally friendly.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-10) with the definitions (A-J).

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 ___ individual | 6 ___ boycott |
| 2 ___ legislation | 7 ___ carbon footprint |
| 3 ___ mass transit | 8 ___ rain barrel |
| 4 ___ local | 9 ___ political |
| 5 ___ carpool | 10 ___ apathy |

- A a large-scale system of transportation
 B to commute in a car with others
 C a lack of passion or interest
 D a single person
 E to refuse to buy or use something
 F a container used to collect precipitation
 G originating in a nearby location
 H the amount of CO₂ produced by a single person
 I laws or the process of creating them
 J related to the field of politics

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are two environmentally friendly ways to travel?
- 2 What can be grown in a garden?

Reading

2 Read the pamphlet. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ Cars are a large source of carbon dioxide emissions.
- 2 ___ Buying local produce can help reduce fuel use.
- 3 ___ The pamphlet recommends replacing wasteful appliances.

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.

1 xeriscape / conserve

- A To _____ a yard, replace water-using plants with those that use little water.
 B You should _____ water whenever possible.

2 vampire appliance / charger

- A Only plug in a _____ when your battery is low.
 B A _____, like a toaster, will use energy all day if it is not unplugged.

3 produce / garden

- A The _____ in this market is grown locally.
 B This _____ produces carrots, beans, and peppers.

5 Listen and read the pamphlet again. Why is buying local produce important?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two coworkers. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the conversation mainly about?
 A the woman's efforts at sustainability
 B how the man can reduce his carbon footprint
 C why a company should be boycotted
 D upcoming legislation about conserving water
- 2 What does the man agree to do?
 A support the legislation
 B purchase a rain barrel
 C boycott the company
 D join a carpool

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

- Co-worker 1:** You'd be surprised. Over time, changes like that 1 _____.
- Co-worker 2:** I don't know. I just don't see something that small making a difference.
- Co-worker 1:** Well, that's why you have to do a lot of things. It's the same reason I 2 _____.
- Co-worker 2:** How does that save energy?
- Co-worker 1:** Well, if people grow vegetables at home, fewer trucks use fuel to drive 3 _____ to stores.
- Co-worker 2:** Fair enough. But don't you use a lot of water on that garden?
- Co-worker 1:** Not really. I have a few 4 _____. They supply most of the water.
- Co-worker 2:** Really? Interesting. I can see how a lot of people doing that could add up.
- Co-worker 1:** Yeah. It's like a boycott. Dedicated individuals can make a difference. Also, I'm organizing a 5 _____. Would you like to join?
- Co-worker 2:** 6 _____. You've convinced me.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Do you want to sign ...?

They use ...

We could ...

Student A: You work with Student B. Talk to him or her about:

- avoiding apathy
- how to get involved
- ways to influence people

Student B: You work with Student A. Talk to him or her about sustainability.

Writing

9 Use the pamphlet and the conversation from Task 8 to write an information leaflet about sustainability. Include: changes to make at home, other ways to help, and how to get involved.