

## ***The Green Pledge***

***Let's ensure that we pass on a better world to our children***

*Global climate change is a current problem that concerns us all. The cause is the greenhouse effect, which is caused by greenhouse gases. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, which is released from the burning of coal, oil and gas for energy.*

**Climate Change Statistics:** 23 billion tons of carbon dioxide have been released into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. 9 of the 10 warmest years recorded occurred since 1990. Since 1974 the number of category 4 and 5 hurricanes recorded has almost doubled.

**What can you do? Join the *Green Pledge!*** Check off an item on the list that you intend to do in the next 30 days to help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. Then get others involved - family, friends, community, workplace, politicians.....

- Replace at least 5 incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.  
**Fluorescent bulbs last longer, are just as bright, and use less electricity.**
- Walk or take public transportation to school or work.  
**Burning fuel for transportation is one of the main methods by which carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere. Plus walking on a daily basis is excellent for your health.**
- Buy an energy efficient appliance to replace an old high-energy appliance.  
**You can reduce the cost of washing your clothes to under \$20 per year, and the cost of refrigerating your foods to under \$80 per year (Look for the  label).**
- Improve the insulation of your home and thereby reduce the amount of fossil fuels burnt to warm your home in the winter, and to cool it in the summer.  
**Start with the attic, which can be a major source of heat loss/gain.**
- During winter months, lower your thermostat and wear warm clothing indoors.  
**Lowering your thermostat by a few degrees Fahrenheit can significantly reduce your energy use.**
- Keep your car properly maintained by doing monthly maintenance checks.  
**Keeping your air filter clean and your tires properly inflated can improve your gas mileage. For highway driving, improve gas mileage with cruise control.**
- Purchase a vehicle that uses hybrid and/or compressed air technology.  
**A hybrid car can reduce emission of carbon dioxide by 70% compared to a sports utility vehicle with a regular gasoline engine.**
- Use a triple-A-rated shower head.  
**Reduce your carbon dioxide emissions due to household energy use by up to 12%.**
- Install a solar hot water heater, or install a timer for your electric hot water heater.  
**The heating of hot water in your home is second only to heating and air condition in terms of energy usage. A water heater will keep the water in it hot even when no one is home to use it. With a solar hot water heater you can get sunlight to heat your water for free, without any carbon dioxide emission.**
- Install solar panels, or choose an option from your electricity supplier that uses renewable energy sources.  
**Eliminate your emissions due to household electricity use.**

Pledge online at: <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledge>

Calculate your savings at: <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/carboncalculator.asp>

Join the virtual march at: <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org>

This form is available online at <http://www.geocities.com/maxsprintpub/pledge>