

## You Can Make a Difference

For those of you who have seen TV shows like Carbon Cops or Eco House Challenge, you will know that it is possible to reduce the emissions from your household and transportation by up to 70% without making significant investments. This brochure shows you how this can be achieved in Western Australia.



My wife and I have used all of the strategies outlined in this brochure to help reduce our family footprint to zero.

In addition to what is in this brochure, there are literally hundreds of other ways to reduce your footprint. For information on other ideas, or for more details on anything contained in this brochure, then please visit my website at [www.wardoffclimatechange.com.au](http://www.wardoffclimatechange.com.au)

Please don't hesitate to phone or e-mail me if you would like advice.

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## *How to reduce your personal carbon footprint in Western Australia*



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# Steps to reduce your carbon footprint

## 1. Reduce your emissions

## 2. Switch to Green Power

## 3. Offset the Rest

## 4. Spread the Word

### Reduce your Emissions

- Turn your lights off when not in use— even fluorescents should be turned off;
- Replace incandescent lights (including halogens) with Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). These use 80% less energy and will last up to 10 times longer. You will pay off the initial cost within the first year of use.
- Buy local produce. Not just from Australia, but wherever possible from your local area. This reduces transportation kilometers. Even better, grow your own produce in your backyard.
- Reduce your transportation emissions by:
  - Walking more;
  - Taking Public Transport;
  - Car Pooling;
  - When it comes time to replace your car, buy the smallest, most efficient car that will meet your needs.

- Reduce the need for air conditioning in your house by:
  - Installing the best insulation you can afford in the roof;
  - Installing shade sails above northern windows. These stop heat entering during the summer and can be taken down in winter to allow the sun to heat the house.
  - Installing whirlygigs in the roof to remove hot air from the roof cavity;
  - Applying solar film to your windows to reduce up to 80% of the sun's heat.

### Switch to Green Power

As a Synergy customer you can choose *NaturalPower* to have your energy sourced from renewable sources such as the sun and wind. *NaturalPower* is fully accredited under the Green Power program, so you can rest assured that your energy comes from renewable sources and is contributing to the future of the renewable energy industry.

Synergy currently charges an extra 4.4c per unit for *NaturalPower*, which for the average household means an extra 50c per day.

Switching to *NaturalPower* is easy. You can call Synergy on 13 13 54 and sign-up over the phone or go to the Synergy Website: [http://www.synergyenergy.com.au/Business\\_Segment/Green\\_Energy/Green\\_Energy.html](http://www.synergyenergy.com.au/Business_Segment/Green_Energy/Green_Energy.html)



Albany  
Wind  
Farm

### Offset the Rest

After reducing your emissions and switching to Green Power, you can then offset all your remaining emissions. To offset means that you pay someone to plant trees or take some other action that will have the effect of neutralizing all of your remaining emissions.

The Men of the Trees run an excellent offsetting program call Carbon Neutral. Go to their website <http://www.carbonneutral.com.au/> to calculate your emissions and to then offset those emissions.

This may cost anywhere between \$100 and \$400 per year depending on your emissions.

### Spread the Word

This won't reduce your own emissions, however you can help cool the planet by spreading the word on climate change. People lead busy lives, so they need to hear the message on climate change many times before they take concrete action. Encourage your friends to read this brochure, or to take out An Inconvenient Truth from their DVD Library. Better still, get them to go along to one of the Climate Change Lectures run by the Australian Conservation Foundation.

If you would like to organize a climate change presentation for your club, business or association, go to the ACF website at <http://www.acfonline.com.au/>, click on "The Climate Project" link and then click on "Request a Presenter".

Alternatively contact Gary Warden (details below) who will be happy to either deliver the presentation, or to organize another presenter to do this for you.