

Earth Day Commitments to Act April 28, 2019

Take action on behalf of Mother Earth! Everyone can do SOMETHING -- and if we all don't pitch in, we won't solve the climate crisis.

1. Move your money: Move savings, checking and credit cards to a local credit union. Since the big banks are huge investors in fossil fuel companies and infrastructure, like pipelines, make a commitment to break up with your bank and tell them why you did it. cleanmoney.us/banking
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zbG0jUoI2kHgBSnWdSjdVpGkU02hOdq0/view>
2. Make an Earth Day donation to a climate/environmental group. See frespa.org/coolplanet for a list of organizations that Cool Planet has vetted and supported.
3. Cut back on eating beef to once a month (or less!) See nytimes.com/2018/03/17/opinion/sunday/carbon-tax-on-beef.html
4. Cut back on your outdoor water use. The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers tips, information and rebates: valleywater.org/
5. Schedule a home energy audit. Palo Alto residents can use: cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/uti/residents/programs/home_efficiency_genie
6. Think transportation: Almost 40 percent of the CO₂ emitted in CA comes from the transportation sector. When considering a new car, look at all-electric, plug-in electric and hybrid models. The vehicles keep improving, there are still rebates available, and now there are used EVs available for ~\$10K (acterra.org/ev-resources). In the meantime, walk, bike, and use public transportation when you can. Palo Alto and Stanford have free shuttles, and CalTrain connects to Light Rail and BART. You can plan your trip with 511.org.
7. Offset the effect of carbon put into the atmosphere when you travel. Donate to an organization that plants trees as part of the solution. A simple formula is 1 cent per mile traveled. Here's a local suggestion: canopy.org
8. According to *Drawdown*, by Paul Hawken, the 3rd largest reduction in greenhouse gases would come from reducing food waste; about 40 percent of food in the U.S. is wasted. Improve your own buying habits and consider these ways to eliminate food waste:
 - Order your vegetables from Imperfect Produce. imperfectproduce.com
 - Support Food Runners, a group that delivers leftover food from restaurants and companies to food closets/kitchens. peninsulafoodrunners.org
9. Reduce your use of single-use plastics. Support legislation to ban their use, but most of all, change your own habits. We no longer know whether recycled plastic is actually reused.