

List of Concrete Next Steps Friends Can Take to Address Climate Disruption

From QEW's Sustainability Faith and Action Working Group

Many of these suggestions are based on the work of Paul Hawken and his team of scientists, in their book "DRAWDOWN" and their website, <<http://www.drawdown.org/>>

For more background and details about all suggestions, please see the full text.

Here are QEW's 2018 suggestions you could implement now:

I. FOOD

Reduce Food Waste

Individually: Buy only as much food as you need; give away (ie to a food bank) excess food or compost any waste.

In Community: Provide information on home composting and local food banks ; demand weekly home and business green waste pick-up with your garbage service or a location for drop-off; make it easy for restaurants to give away excess food; patronize caterers and other businesses which have plans for responsible recycling of excess food and offer ugly produce.

Policy: Advocate for laws like those in France and Italy which requires food selling markets to give away food waste to charities, as animal feed, or to composting companies.

Eat no or Less Meat

Individual/Household/Meeting: Please eliminate or reduce your meat consumption as much as possible.

Policy: Support humane treatment of domestic animals.

II. FAMILY PLANNING AND EDUCATING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Individual/Household: Consider your family size carefully. The most effective way a person can reduce their carbon footprint is by having one fewer child.

Policy: Support and protect Planned Parenthood and the the Planned Parenthood Action Fund or similar reproductive health agencies; donate to the QEW population offsets fund.

III. LAND USE, LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING

Individual/Household/Meeting: Plant natives to support complex ecosystems including pollinators; plant edible gardens, in arid areas use drought-tolerant plants and xeriscape practices; use gray and rain water.

Policy : Plant and protect forests and wildlands; support educational planting projects at schools.

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IV. TRANSPORTATION

Individual/Household/Meeting: Do ride sharing, public transportation, walking, and riding bikes as much as possible; switch to hybrid vehicles or electric vehicles when economically feasible.

Policy: Support electric vehicles, mass transit, telepresence, high speed rail, electric bikes, trains and ridesharing.

V. ENERGY

Individual/Household/Meeting: Install solar panels; buy 100% clean and renewable electricity wherever possible OR create your own local energy aggregate; use LED bulbs.

Policy: Support state and local legislation and initiatives enabling cities and counties to form green electricity aggregates.

VI. MATERIALS

Coolants continue to be identified as significant greenhouse gases, much more damaging than CO₂. A recent international agreement calls for phasing out these materials starting with developed countries in 2019. Be aware that coolants in refrigerators or air conditioners are an important concern and that appliances with new coolants are becoming available.

Individual/Household/Meeting: While new agreements and the markets are sorting themselves out, we suggest postponing buy new refrigerators and other appliances using harmful refrigerants if possible. Dispose of existing appliances carefully, to avoid unnecessary emissions or leaks, at a site that will drain and store the refrigerant.

Policy: Encourage your county or state to provide facilities to contain, store, and purify refrigerants of their harmfulness.

Waste Disposal

Encourage your city and/or county to provide convenient community disposal sites for toxic materials such as paint, batteries, and fluorescent, and LED lights.

VII. BUILDINGS

Individual/Household/Meeting : When building or remodeling, please use the highest standards of green energy efficiency, non-toxic design and materials.

Policy: Support energy efficient building codes; support infill of cities.