

How Can I Act on Climate Change?



Climate change is a global and local issue. Here are some ways that you can lower your carbon footprint and get Montgomery County closer to its emissions reduction goal.

Transportation



Walk more. Try picking up litter while you're walking ([plogging](#))!

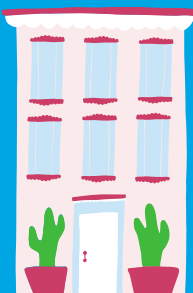
Bike or use public transportation. There are over 80 Capital Bikeshare stations across the County. Other transit options like Ride On, Metrobus, and Metrorail can get you everywhere you need to be in the County!

Combine errands. Save your errands for one trip, visit one-stop-shop centers, and try carpooling with friends.

Switch to electric or hybrid. There are federal and state tax credits available to help you pay for the switch. Or, participate in Montgomery County's own [group-buy program](#), coming soon!

Change your flying habits. Consider vacation locations closer to home, enjoy staycations, and participate in carbon offsetting your flights.

Telework. Work from home as frequently as possible and support flexible telework policies.



Home Energy

Switch to LED lighting. LEDs consume 80% less energy than incandescent bulbs.

Pay attention to your thermostat. Lower the set temperature when it's cold outside. Installing a programmable thermostat may also be an option for you.

Consider your appliance use. Use appliances at the right time, unplug small appliances when not in use, and invest in ENERGY STAR® appliances.

Schedule an energy audit and benchmark. A Quick Energy Checkup (QEC) will offer a clear outline of ways to save energy at work. Your service provider will make recommendations and install up to \$250 worth of energy-efficient devices for you. A benchmarking tool can help identify and compare energy savings as well.

Switch to renewable energy for your home or business. The [Green Bank](#) has programs for residents and businesses to accelerate their energy transition. You can also participate in a local solar co-op or [Community Solar](#). Check Montgomery Energy Connection's [website](#) to learn more about switching to renewable energy.

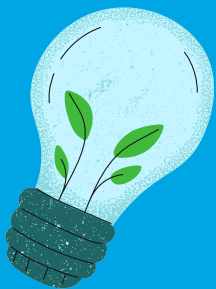


Business

Look for deep retrofit options. Financing opportunities are available with [EmPOWER Maryland](#) incentives, [C-PACE](#) financing, and the [Green Bank](#).

Become a certified green business. The [Green Business Certificate program](#) helps businesses green their day-to-day operations through tools, incentives, ideas, and leadership opportunities.

Think outside of the building. Energy-efficient landscaping practices include planting trees, reducing lawn area, and increasing low-maintenance planting beds that include native plants. Install stormwater management projects and take advantage of the rebates offered by the Montgomery County RainScapes program.



Consumption

Buy less stuff. Reducing and reusing is better than buying new products. Check out your local thrift stores, Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and [Buy Nothing](#) groups before buying new things.

Buy local. The [MoCo Made](#) initiative highlights the County's vibrant local food and beverage sector. Consider buying your food from farmer's markets or try growing some of your own. You can also order [community-supported agriculture \(CSA\)](#) boxes that get delivered to your door once a week or biweekly.

Gift differently. Try giving experiences, gifting greener, giving back, buying local, and remembering the 3Rs (Reduce/Reuse/Recycle) when buying and wrapping gifts. Learn more [here](#).

Change your diet. Moderate your consumption of meat and dairy products as much as possible. Match your selection of fresh produce to local seasonal availability. Aim to minimize waste by planning meals ahead of time and composting your leftover food scraps.



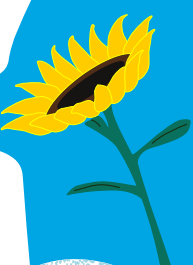
Resilience

Purchase flood insurance. Flood damage is not covered by home insurance plans. [The National Flood Insurance Program](#) is available to all residents of Montgomery County at a low monthly cost.

Stay informed. Register with the [Alert Montgomery System](#) to receive accurate and immediate emergency notifications about events such as high heat days and intense storms.

Reduce health risks. Plant shade trees to reduce summer heat, monitor exertion in hot weather, and avoid waters with a blue-green "paint" slick which could signify [harmful algal blooms](#). Use insect repellent to prevent insect-borne diseases from mosquitoes and ticks during peak months.

Build connections and support systems. Be aware of vulnerable neighbors, especially during high heat days, and check in on them. Join or start a ["village"](#) designed to foster social connections and voluntary support such as providing transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and cooking meals.



Advocacy

Talk about it. Talk about climate change and how to reduce emissions with your friends and family. Share what you're doing on social media to inspire others!

Be the change. Get involved politically. Vote. Systemic changes are necessary to address the problems caused by climate change, and government needs the input of local voices like yours.

Align your money with your values. Support companies that are certified green businesses and encourage those that are not to green their operations. Consider switching banks to those that are not invested in fossil fuels.

