
Three Ways We Can Combat Climate Change Today

Posted by [Philip](#) / 30 - Jun - 2017

Here's what the vanguard of behavioral change is doing instead of wetting themselves while huddled in their safe spaces.

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1. Travel Clean

Walk if it's close; bicycle if it's far; use public transportation if it's available; drive if you must. And if you drive, make it an electric vehicle. The world-class brains at MIT [asked and answered](#) their own question. "Could existing electric vehicles (EVs), despite their limited driving range, bring about a meaningful reduction in the greenhouse-gas emissions that are causing global climate change? MIT Researchers have just completed the most comprehensive study yet to address this hotly debated question, and have reached a clear conclusion: Yes, they can."

The MIT scientists behind the study believe EVs could replace 90 percent of gas-guzzling vehicles given EV's current range and energy requirements. That far exceeds the 42 percent figure [touted by the Union of Concerned Scientists](#). The switch to electric vehicles would reduce emissions linked to transportation by about 30 percent, per the MIT study that included data gleaned from millions of trips made by drivers in the US that were monitored and recorded by GPS equipment.

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There's more good news on this front: Every year, more electricity is being generated using the wind, solar, hydroelectric and geothermal, so the 30 percent reduction in emissions from fossil-fuel vehicles will climb steadily.

2. Expect the Generation of Alternative Power

Consumer demand and altered lifestyles are among the forces driving the shift to clean energy.

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The energy production industry around the world has taken note and has embraced the challenge. The industry is currently going through a change that can be accurately characterized by the overused adjective "disruptive." There's a [major shift in focus and resources](#). However, it requires time to design and produce new parts and equipment needed for renewable energy production and to retrofit existing power production facilities to generate clean electricity.

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As for resources, according to the most recent annual data, \$286 billion was

invested globally in alternative energy production as compared to the \$130 billion invested in fossil fuel generation as part of the rising global use of renewable energy sources. That imbalance in favor of alternative energy is expected to continue to grow.

3. Do your Part Every Day and Every Way Possible

Travel clean and let your energy provider know that you expect renewable energy to power your home and office. That's a start, but there is so much more each of us can to be the change we want to see in the world. Revolutions require courage and sacrifice. If you're ready, then:

- Repurpose, reuse or recycle all items you used to throw away
- Walk or ride (it never hurts to repeat a great way to go green)
- Grow your own, or make use of locally grown food sources – food that hasn't been trucked from the Central Valley of California to your East Cost supermarket, for example
- Let nature take over your yard instead of bowing to the demand for a lawn on steroids that is totally bereft of any natural thing other than over-muscular grass plants
- Push the option of working from home with your employer, if applicable, or find a job that embraces staying home and leaving the car ignition in the "off" position where it can do no harm
- Go paperless on all your billing accounts
- Put an end to the average of 69lbs of annual junk mail that comes to your home by going to the senders' sites and [removing yourself from the mailing list](#)
- Read newspapers and magazines online, never in the print edition
- Make your home energy efficient with more attic insulation and ventilation, caulk around window and door frames, weather-stripping and the installation of high-efficiency HVAC equipment with solar panels now or the next time you need it
- Use a drying line or rack, and retire your clothes dryer for good
- Trade harsh chemical cleaners for the natural cleaning and sanitizing power of white vinegar
- Don't eat out, and if you do, take home the leftovers in a non-disposable container
- Quit drinking bottled water in favor of carrying water from the tap or filter in a non-disposable bottle

Combating Climate Change Together

The human influence on climate change can be reduced dramatically by each of us being the change we want to see in the world and becoming influencers of others.

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Think about it: Change yourself, and you'll change a family; change a family, and you change a neighborhood; change a neighborhood, and you change a city. The change continues to states, countries and the world. Clean travel, clean energy production, and green living are wonderful ways to make a change, so start today.