

WHAT YOU CAN DO, CHARLESTON

CREATING A MORE RESILIENT
AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

WAYS TO TAKE CLIMATE ACTION AROUND YOUR HOME

You can make a difference by taking action in your home with small changes. Here are some suggestions of how you can help right now. The actions with the highest impact are marked .



SUSTAIN YOUR LIFESTYLE

- Consume foods which are grown locally and/ or are grown organically. Join a [farm share](#) and shop at [farmers' markets](#). Plant fruits and vegetables in your own garden or participate in a [community garden](#). Eat at restaurants that feature local and seasonal foods, including [seafood](#).



- Eat a plant rich diet. [Reduce your consumption of meat and dairy](#). Try "meatless Mondays". Avoid food waste.

- Buy [local products](#).

- Support [environmentally-conscious businesses](#).



- Follow the City's [Sustainable Event Guide](#) when hosting.

- Communicate with your elected officials regarding new and emerging solutions. Attend the City's [Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee](#) public meetings.

PROTECT YOUR AIR, WATER AND CARBON SINKS



- [Plant trees](#), especially where they'll provide shade for your house, and [native plants](#) for their resilience.

- Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use. Enrich your soil with compost. [Purchase compost](#) made locally.

- Properly dispose of waste including pet waste. It should not go down the storm drain.



- Participate in marsh restoration programs like [SC Oyster Restoration](#) and [From Seeds to Shoreline](#) (at school).

REDUCE YOUR WASTE

- Buy only items that are necessary and you will use. Focus on enduring purchases instead of disposable.

- Avoid single-serving packaging, especially plastic. Buy in bulk with reusable bags or jars.



- [Compost](#) your organic (food, yard) waste.

- Take your own reusable bags to the store.

- Donate unused clothes and electronics to charity.

- Opt-in for electronic catalogs and billing statements. [Try these 4 tips](#) to stop junk mail.

- Use extra paper as scrap paper and print double sided.

- Recycle. Find out [what can be recycled](#). View Charleston County's recycling [pick up schedule](#).

MAKE YOUR HOME MORE RESILIENT

- [Adopt a storm drain](#) to help maximize the amount of water that can flow into drains and protect water quality.
- Connect a [rain barrel](#) to your gutter system.
- [Rainproof](#) your home and install a rain garden, native plants, a green roof, or permeable pavement.
- Establish a household emergency plan and kit for storms, heat emergencies and other disasters.

LIGHTEN YOUR TRANSPORTATION FOOTPRINT

- Reduce single-destination and single-occupant trips.
- Walk, [ride a bike](#), use public transit, or carpool. Use tools like [Lowcountry Go](#), or [plan your CARTA route](#) online or in the easy [Transit app](#).
- Use the most efficient vehicle when feasible.
- Avoid idling your vehicle, such as in the carpool pick up.
- Ride in a more efficient or alternative fuel car, such as a hybrid or electric vehicle.

USE ENERGY EFFICIENTLY AND RENEWABLY

- Get a free energy assessment from [Dominion](#) or [Berkeley Electric](#). Or use the [SC Energy Saver Tool](#).
- Perform energy efficiency improvements, like insulation. Utilize free weatherization programs (if income qualified) such as [Energy Conservation Corps](#) and [Palmetto CAP](#).
- Consider installing solar on your home. Do an [initial assessment](#). Get the facts about [how solar works](#) and understand [consumer information](#).
- Use CFL and LED bulbs, they save energy and last longer.
- Unplug electronics and turn off lights. Use power strips.
- Adjust your thermostat to save while asleep or away from home. Install a programmable thermostat.
- Replace refrigerators and other appliances with those labeled ENERGY STAR®.
- Only run the dishwasher, dryer and washer when full.
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang out to dry.
- Take shorter showers. Install a low-flow showerhead.