

# TOWN HALL MEETING #1 on Energy & the Environment

Village of Key Biscayne

April 18, 2007

[www.keybiscayne.fl.gov](http://www.keybiscayne.fl.gov)

## Top 20 Things You Can Do At Home to Save Energy and Money:

1. Switch from high-energy incandescent bulbs to compact florescent lighting (CF bulbs do not emit heat like traditional bulbs, decreasing your cooling costs as well!)
2. Turn off the lights in rooms when you leave
3. Unplug any appliances that use, but do not require, power 24 hours a day (Examples: cell phone chargers, televisions, DVD players, coffee makers, computers, printers)
4. Set your thermostat at 78°F in the summer and 68°F in the winter. (Adjust thermostat 2 degrees when leaving the house for 2+ hours). Install a programmable thermostat
5. Change the filter on your air conditioner's air handler monthly
6. Replace older appliances with Energy Star models that are energy efficient. Maintain appliances so they run efficiently
7. Check your plumbing for water leaks
8. Calculate your greenhouse gas emissions that result from your household energy use and waste disposal (EPA online calculator at [www.epa.gov/climate](http://www.epa.gov/climate))
9. Buy carbon offsets and/or invest in alternative energy programs/companies.
10. Clean out dirt from under the refrigerator at least 2 time/year to reduce energy consumption
11. Pull shades in rooms with western exposure to decrease heating in the late afternoon
12. Install energy efficient ceiling fans and use them when in the room
13. Get better gas mileage by properly inflating car tires and decreasing rapid acceleration
14. Buy a more fuel-efficient or hybrid vehicle
15. Carpool, walk, ride a bike, use mass transit, or work at home one day a week
16. Seal your doors and windows and properly insulate your home
17. Take shorter showers of 5 minutes or less and install a low-flow shower head
18. Stop the delivery of junk mail
19. Use refillable and reusable containers. Recycle. Use cloth bags for shopping
20. Use the power of your voice and your votes. Contact local, state and federal officials; let them know efficient energy use and sustainability are critical issues that need action!

## Top 15 Energy Use Facts:

1. **28 million**: number of gallons per day of motor vehicle fuel used in Florida
2. **20%**: Amount of all electricity consumed in the US used for lighting
3. **45%**: Amount of a home's total energy use used for heating and cooling
4. **9-10%**: Amount of a home's total energy use used by electronics/appliances as standby power
5. **\$43 million**: Savings in energy bills if each Florida household replaced one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent (curly-q) bulb
6. **75% percent**: Decrease in power consumption if an incandescent bulb is replaced with a compact fluorescent (and you get the same light wattage)
7. **192 gallons**: Water wasted per month by a faucet that leaks 60 drops per minute\*
8. **4 million gallons**: Gasoline saved each day if Americans properly inflate vehicle \*
9. **30 billion kilowatt-hours**: Energy wasted because users forget to shut down computers when not using them. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 15 computers are equivalent in energy terms to the gas consumption used by 1 car
10. **2 million tons +**: EPA estimate of how much electronic hardware is put in landfills each year
11. **1,200 miles or more**: The distance most food you eat travels from the pasture to your plate\*
12. **8 out of 10**: Number of plastic water bottles that end up in landfills
13. **500 billion**: Number of plastic bags manufactured each year worldwide (~1 million/ minute)
14. **3,000 pounds**: CO<sub>2</sub> savings per year if vehicle fuel efficiency is improved by 3 miles/gallon

15. **200 million:** Number of trees cut down to produce junk mail every year. The production of junk mail consumes as much energy as 2.8 million cars.

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### Learn more at these websites:

<a href="http://www.epa.gov/climate">www.epa.gov/climate</a>	Calculate your greenhouse gas emissions that result from your household energy use and waste disposal with the EPA's online calculator.
<a href="http://www.NativeEnergy.com">www.NativeEnergy.com</a>	Find out why carbon offsetting is a practical way to reduce your global warming pollution to zero. Also see <a href="http://www.NativeWind.com">www.NativeWind.com</a>
<a href="http://www.energystar.gov">www.energystar.gov</a>	The Energy Star program recognizes energy efficient appliances.
<a href="http://www.h2ouse.org">www.h2ouse.org</a>	Find out how to leak-proof your home and even create a water budget.*
<a href="http://www.earth911.org">www.earth911.org</a>	Learn to properly recycle everything from aluminum to motor oil.*
<a href="http://www.fueleconomy.gov">www.fueleconomy.gov</a>	Compare fuel-efficiency rates and learn about green tax credits.*
<a href="http://www.localcooling.com/facts">http://www.localcooling.com/facts</a>	Tips to improve the efficiency of how we use personal computers at home and at work.
<a href="http://www.eiae.org">www.eiae.org</a>	Information on how you or your company can recycle properly or donate old computers. Get information on eco-friendly replacements at <a href="http://www.epeat.net">www.epeat.net</a> *
<a href="http://www.eartheasy.com">www.eartheasy.com</a>	Check out natural household cleaner recipes using borax and lemon juice as eco-friendly alternatives to regular chemical-based products.*
<a href="http://www.localharvest.org">www.localharvest.org</a>	Buying locally saves fuel and helps farmers in your community; find lists of local farmers markets. Also see <a href="http://www.usda.gov">www.usda.gov</a> *
<a href="http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower">www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower</a>	The Green Power Network lists what energy generated from renewable sources like wind is available in your area.*
<a href="http://www.coolcities.us">www.coolcities.us</a>	See how the Village can be involved in efforts to meet or beat Kyoto Protocol targets through community efforts.*
<a href="http://www.climateproject.org">www.climateproject.org</a>	Find lecturers to teach your community more about climate change, or apply to become a presenter.*
<a href="http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/">www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/</a>	More information about the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement signed by Mayor Vernon
<a href="http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv">www.mtv.com/thinkmtv</a>	Have your kids sign up for daily green tips via text message.*

### Information Sources:

Newsweek, April 16, 2007, How To Live A Greener Life – Leadership and the Environment  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17996844/site/newsweek/> (Entries marked with an \*)

The Climate Project  
<http://www.theclimateproject.org>

Roberta's Top Ten Things You Can Do courtesy of Roberta Fernandez, Climate Change Messenger

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