

CITIZENS FOR CARBON REDUCTION

There presently exists a deep gulf between what we should be doing to protect the atmosphere and what we are doing. We must remember that in a system of democracy, citizens do hold the levers of government. Government will act if citizens demand it. But our leaders will not act if citizens do not demand them to. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Public sentiment is everything. With [it], nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed." The heart of the problem is this: Americans seem to have lost their understanding that government is *obligated* to protect their atmosphere. And when the public loses its sense of government responsibility, government officials quickly lose their sense of responsibility towards the public. Express climate duty – to every official you can find. Incorporate it into your own life. Question convenience.

Be a Climate Citizen – Call your U.S. Senators and Representatives.

Jeff Merkley (D – OR)
107 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
202-224-3753
Web Form: merkley.senate.gov/contact/

Ron Wyden (D –OR)
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510
202-224-5244
Web Form: wyden.senate.gov/contact

Adopt a Local Official – Make climate their priority.

Think beyond the obvious leaders. There are thousands of government workers in the state, each with the capacity to harness public dollars to re-create our society in a low-carbon way. Adopt members of the school board, transportation agency, county commissioners staff, Lane Transit District, parks and recreation staff, judges – the possibilities are huge. Put them on your speed dial. Send them articles. Meet with them. Give them ideas . . . and courage.

Engage in Civic Outreach

- Become a Climate Victory Speaker: Step by step instructions and a presentation are available at: http://www.350.org/files/materials/slideshow%20script_2.pdf
- Adopt a club or business, and make it your goal to educate them in reducing carbon emissions. Reach out to: PTA meetings, book clubs, churches, soccer leagues, Kiwanis and rotary clubs, Toastmasters Clubs, Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, parent groups, neighborhood groups, support groups – any and all groups you can find.
- Write a Letter to the Editor (or, also useful, publish letters in your club magazines, newsletters, blogs, etc).
- Help a child have a voice: Teach your kids to be citizens, not consumers. Inspire them to do projects on meaningful climate issues, write letters to officials, organize petitions, make speeches.

Join the Great Turning: Slash Your Personal Carbon

Create an Urban Homestead (then convince your neighbors to do the same) (see the other side for details)

Take the Mayor's Climate Challenge (and spread the word to others): http://www.sustaineugene.com/mayor_challenge.cfm

Create goals: reduce carbon by 50% this year, reduce driving by 50%, liberate yourself from plastic, say no to throwaway containers, eat 90% local, eat vegetarian several days a week, produce 90% less waste, buy second-hand.

Stay Informed and Engaged:

Join 350.org

Sign up for the free Earth Equity News (daily newsfeed of the Climate Crisis Coalition): <http://www.climatecrisiscoalition.org/>

Read "With Speed and Violence: Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change," by Fred Pearce

Read "Depletion and Abundance: Life on the New Home Front," by Sharon Astyk

URBAN HOMESTEADING FOR CARBON REDUCTION

Food grown at large monoculture farms across the country and world travel great distances to arrive at your grocery store. Food produced this way uses lots of chemical fertilizers and pesticides as well as the fossil fuel in transportation. Much carbon pollution can be avoided by purchasing locally grown food, and by growing your own fruits and vegetables.

Grow a Garden – Begin your urban homestead now.

Today, right now, is the best time of the year to begin converting your lawn or any sunny area into a nice fertile garden bed that will be ready for planting in the Spring. Sheet mulch a sunny area or convert your whole lawn to a garden full of productive shrubs, trees, fruits and vegetables.

Buy Local – support the local economy.

- Eugene Local Foods – farm fresh produce and dairy products delivery weekly for you to pick up. Order on-line at www.eugenelocalfoods.com
- Farmer's Markets
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares delivered weekly
- Local farm stands

For details about these, see the Willamette Farm & Food Coalition website - www.lanefood.org

Eliminate or Reduce Packaging and Waste – buy bulk foods and products. Shop where bulk products are available -- reuse plastic, glass, and other containers. Join a co-op – Azure Standard delivers to Eugene. You can find Oregon grown cereals, grains and other products - www.azurestandard.com. Check out Hummingbird wholesale, <http://www.hummingbirdwholesale.com/> and Glorybee Foods, <http://www.glorybeefoods.com/gbf/?gclid=CJ627f3J050CFRcjawodPEDdqw>.

Preserve and Store Food for Winter Use – freeze, can and dehydrate for winter use. Buy quality, discounted quantity at local farms when produce you like is in season. Buy several months' worth of local squash, onions and garlic (from Farmer's Market), and store in dry place. Store roots like carrots, beets, and potatoes in burlap coffee bean bags (available from coffee shops) and place in a covered pit lined with bricks in your back yard. Cover with a board (secured by heavy brick) and check often to ensure no spoilage.

Your house/garage can be your grocery store – stocked with local, bulk, healthy REAL food!

References:

Urban Homesteading

<http://www.pathtofreedom.com/>
<http://urbanhomestead.org/journal/>
<http://eugenepermacultureguild.org>
<http://livingthefrugallife.blogspot.com/>

Chickens

Eugene code is a maximum of 2 hens, no roosters, kept 20 feet from dwellings.
<http://www.backyardchickens.com>
<http://www.theCityChickens.com>
<http://www.backyardpoultrymag.com>

Video Clips of Two Eugene Boys Engaged in

Urban Homesteading: <http://hub.witness.org/GreenProdigies>

Growing information & Seed Saving

www.SeedAmbassadors.org

There are many workshops/resources to learn about organic gardening, composting, sheet mulching and food preservation at the OSU Extension office and the Grass Roots Garden and much more at the following:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu> (phone: 682-4243)

<http://www.foodforlanecounty.org/index.php/programs/gardens> Grass Roots Garden (343-2822)

<http://www.pesticide.org> - Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) (344-5044)

<http://www.lcbaor.org> – Lane County Beekeeping Association of Oregon

<http://www.seedambassadors.org/avalon/wintercroppingtablejune09.htm> - Winter planting chart

Book references (available at the Eugene City Library):

“The Urban Homestead: Your Guide to Self-sufficient Living in the Heart of the City,” by Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen

“Food Not Lawns” by H.C. Flores

“The Backyard Homestead,” by Carleen Madigan

“Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades” by Steve Solomon

“Lasagna gardening: a new layering system for bountiful gardens: no digging, no tilling, no weeding, no kidding” by Patricia Lanza