

How to Reduce Your Carbon Foot Print

A Peace Corp Potluck Dinner Event – Saturday, May 16, 2009

How to reduce your impact on the environment and save money at the same time.

General definition: The total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Consider your Life Style

Transportation

Car, bicycle, walk, mass transportation (use MARTA)

Food

Local / Meat / Restaurants / Organic / Support your local Green markets

3 Rs (Reduce/Reuse/Recycle)

Which is more ecological – plastic or paper bags? Maybe consider taking reusable bags each trip to the store

Your home and what you can do:

Weather seal the house enclosure

Doors / Windows / any openings / Add insulation especially in your attic

Appliances

Consider Energy Star for all products used in your home

Electrical (or natural gas)

Refrigerators and hot water heaters are the biggest user of energy in your house

Lighting - Replace lamps (bulbs) with LED or Compact Fluorescents

Water

Toilet low flow / dual flush option

Water harvesting from roof drainage system to water your garden

HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Condition) System

Geothermal system

Ceiling fans

Solar

Thermal systems vs. photovoltaic system - Check out GA Solar for more info: <http://www.gasolar.us/>

Rebates available

\$1,500 rebate from taxes for renovation energy star home projects / 30% of cost possibilities – check out:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits

GA State rebates also available – more info see:

https://etax.dor.ga.gov/pressrel/ADM_HB_670_Clean_Energy_Property_and_Wood_Residuals_Tax_Credit_6-30-08.pdf

Resources to expand your knowledge:

Southface Energy Institute – www.southface.org / SART / Greenprints Conference / Great resource of sustainable info

The Green Guide - <http://www.thegreenguide.com/>

Carbon Footprint Calculator: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

The Story of Stuff- <http://www.storyofstuff.com/> Excellent 20 minute video on an over view of how stuff is made

There are many other sources just by looking on line.....