

WATER CONSERVATION

When you use energy and water wisely, you're not only saving money, you're also helping to conserve precious natural resources. Taking the initiative to reduce your home's energy and water usage can help reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"California's water-related energy use consumes 19% of the state's electricity, 30% of its natural gas, and 88 billion gallons of diesel fuel every year – **and this demand is growing.**"²

Take steps to cut water use:

- Save up to 10% of hot water costs by washing full laundry loads in cold water.³
- Hand washing dishes can use 8 times as much water as an energy-efficient dishwasher — per dishwasher load. If you use hot water for dishwashing, you can save up to \$40 in annual savings simply by using your efficient dishwasher instead.
- Fix leaky toilets to save 30-50 gallons per day per toilet.
- Showering accounts for approximately 17% of residential indoor water use; low flow showerheads can save up to 1.2 gallons per minute or 10 gallons per average 10-minute shower.
 - Try taking 3 to 5-minute showers.
- Water plants at night, when evaporation is much lower. Avoid runoff, overspray, and water only when needed.

² www.energy.ca.gov

³ www.bewaterwise.com



GO GREEN

Water plants only when needed, not by the clock or calendar



SAVE MONEY

Check your tire pressure regularly; Underinflated tires can cause excessive tire wear and can reduce your miles per gallon by 3%

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gases (GHG) trap some of the infrared radiation from leaving our atmosphere. The trapped heat makes the earth hotter and can lead to global warming. Greenhouse gases include: carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, and the fluorocarbons.

Small and simple changes in driving behaviors can yield an opportunity for safety, cost savings, fuel economy and reduction of GHG emissions⁴.

- Use the recommended grade of motor oil. You can improve your gasoline mileage by 1-2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. Select motor oil with "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol. It contains friction-reducing additives.
- Keep your engine properly tuned. Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gasoline mileage by about 4 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. DOE adds that replacing a faulty oxygen sensor can improve gasoline mileage up to 40 percent.
- Check and replace air filters regularly.
- Don't speed. Gasoline mileage declines rapidly above 60 mph. Each 5 mph increase above 60 is like paying an additional 10 cents a gallon for gasoline.
- Avoid excessive idling.
- Take advantage of cruise control. Using cruise control on the highway helps maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, saves gas.
- Use your overdrive gears to lower engine speed, save gas, and reduce engine wear.

⁴ Adapted from: <https://www.reefrelief.org/act/tips-for-eco-friendly-driving/>

- Take advantage of available carpools and ride-share programs. Sharing your commute with others cuts weekly fuel costs, reduces wear on your car, and may allow you to use less-congested High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes.

CFL DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

The energy efficiency of CFLs is significant, but unlike traditional incandescent light bulbs, there is a hidden danger sealed inside each little bulb that requires special handling and disposal. CFLs contain tiny amounts of mercury. Even at low levels, mercury can have detrimental health effects. When a CFL breaks, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends the following guidelines for safe cleanup and disposal:

- Open all doors and windows to ventilate the area.
- Turn off your AC/Fan/Heater so as not to circulate any mercury vapor.
- Young children and pregnant women should leave the area during cleanup.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as a dust mask and gloves to keep bulb dust and glass from being inhaled or contacting your skin.
- Carefully remove the broken pieces and any visible dust; put all collected material into a sealed container.
- Pat the area with the sticky side of duct, packing or masking tape. Wipe the area with a damp cloth.
- Put all waste and materials used to clean up the bulb in a secure closed container and label it "Universal Waste Broken Bulb."
- Take the container for recycling to your nearest household hazardous waste facility.



Sharing rides with friends, family, neighbors and coworkers reduces your driving, and helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions