

Greenhouse Gas

Reducing Our Carbon Footprint



Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction may be the most important environmental issue we face in the current millennium. GHG emissions are linked to climate change, resulting in measurable increase in Earth's temperature on land, in the oceans and in the air.

What is Greenhouse Gas and how does it effect me?

Greenhouse gas, such as carbon dioxide and methane, are added to the atmosphere by man-made energy consumption that trap heat and cause global warming. Anytime we drive to the store to make a purchase we are producing GHGs, both through the fossil fuels used to get to the store and my the huge amount of energy consumed to produce, ship and store products. We all have a carbon footprint that reflects how we consume resources that result in GHG emissions, so we are all part of the problem and solution!

Global Warming Solutions Act

The California Legislature recognized the critical call for action by enacting Assembly Bill 32 in 2006. This law, The Global Warming Solutions Act, mandates that by the year 2020, businesses, industries and governments reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to a level equal to the year 1990.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels means cutting

approximately 30 percent from business-as-usual emission levels projected for 2020, or about 15 percent from today's levels. On a per-capita basis, that means reducing our annual emissions of 14 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent for every man, woman and child in California down to about 10 tons per person by 2020.

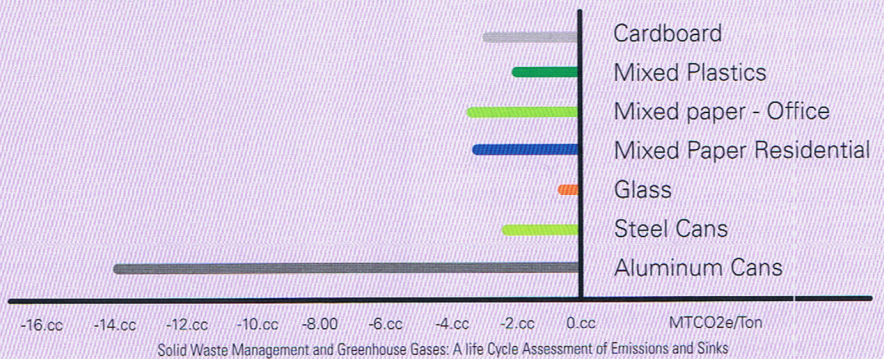
How can I reduce GHG emissions and help protect the environment?

This resource guide shows how we can all contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas by recycling. In the chart below, significant reductions in GHG emissions are achieved by recycling as compared to disposal of the same volume of these types of materials.

Offset Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Recycling:

- **Electronic Waste**
- **Batteries**
- **Flourescent Bulbs**
- **Household Hazardous Waste**
- **Medical Sharps**
- **Used Oil**

Changes in GHG emissions when switching from Landfilling to Recycling



The recommendations to reduce public health and environmental impacts of household hazardous wastes, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, electronic wastes and medical sharps has the added bonus of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We can all do our part by recycling all of the materials included in the Resource Guide. Act locally, recycle whenever you can!



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