

Climate Action Plan

Oak Ridge City Council adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP) in January 2011. The plan provides an overview of city-wide energy use, as well as recommendations on how to reduce it. This plan serves as a guide to reduce the City's carbon footprint. A carbon footprint is a measure of the impacts our activities have on the environment. The decisions we make everyday about the cars we drive, the food we eat, and energy we use makes a significant difference. The CAP is available online at www.cortn.org.

A Few Things You Can Do at Home:

- Use less water — You can use less water at home by taking shorter showers, installing low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and toilets, and by harvesting rainwater.
- Use energy efficient appliances—Replace old appliances with energy efficient models. Look for products with the Energy Star label.
- Reduce your energy use—Adjust your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter and a few degrees higher in the summer and purchase green energy.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFLs) ones.
- Seal and insulate your home—With the help of an energy audit, you can make your home air tight.
- Take advantage of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) residential energy programs.
- Reduce your vehicle emissions— You can reduce your vehicle emissions by driving a fuel efficient vehicle, by driving the speed limit, and with proper vehicle maintenance.
- Eat locally grown produce—You can reduce your vehicle emissions associated with driving and support the local economy as well.

Additional Resources

To learn more about your own energy consumption patterns go to:

- <https://www.earthlab.com/createprofile/reg.aspx>
- <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

To learn about TVA's in home energy audit program go to:

- http://www.tva.gov/ee/in_home_eval.htm

To learn more about an energy efficiency study the Oak Ridge National Laboratory is working on go to:

- <http://info.ornl.gov/sites/publications/files/pub26374.pdf>

To learn more about energy efficient appliances go to:

- <http://www.buenergyefficient.org/>

To learn more green tips go to:

- <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Basic.do>

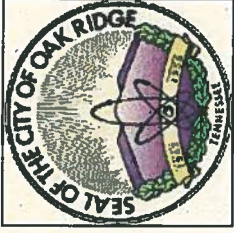
Funding for this brochure was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the State of Tennessee Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

For more information contact:

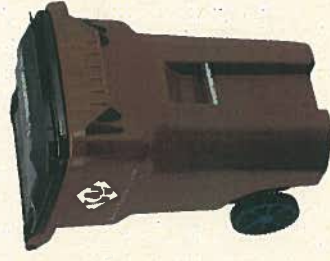
City of Oak Ridge
Community Development Department
200 South Tulane Avenue
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Phone: 865-425-3574
Email: asenecal@cornn.org
Web Site: www.cortn.org

The paper used for this brochure is 100% post consumer recycled.



Oak Ridge Community Guide to Living Green



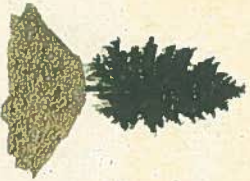
REDUCE

The best way to reduce waste is to avoid generating it in the first place. Although this might not always be possible, there are a number of things you can do at home. One really simple way to reduce paper is to stop unsolicited mail. The following links provide information on how to be removed from thousands of commercial mailing lists, catalog mailings, and pre-approved credit card offers and they are all free.

- Direct Mail's National Do Not

Mail List:

<http://www.directmail.com/directory/mail/preferences/>



- The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) consumer alert for unsolicited mail:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt063.shtm>

- The official consumer credit reporting industry website to accept or decline pre-approved credit or insurance offers from all four of the credit reporting bureaus:
<http://www.optoutprescreen.com>

In addition to stopping unsolicited mail, you could further reduce paper waste by reading newspaper and magazine subscriptions online and/or by visiting your local public library.
Also, say no to paper receipts from stores and pay as many bills online as you can.

REUSE

By reusing things whenever possible, we not only minimize our impact on the environment, but we also save money. While there is no limit on what can be reused, you might start with the following:

- **Reusable water bottles**
Instead of buying bottled water, purchase a reusable water bottle and fill it up with tap water—it ends up being less expensive in the long run. Reusable bottles can be purchased at most local retail and grocery stores, as well as, online at sites like www.reuseit.com.

- **Reusable shopping bags**
Try bringing your own shopping bags to the grocery store. Either reuse a shopping bag from an earlier trip or buy reusable bags. Reusable shopping bags come in various colors and designs and are also available at many local retail stores, as well as online at sites like www.reusablebags.com.



- **Reusable Rainwater**
Instead of using water from inside your home to water your lawn and garden, use a rain barrel to capture your rainwater. Rain barrels are fairly inexpensive and can save you money on your monthly utility bill. Rain barrels can be purchased at local hardware stores, as well as, online at sites like www.rainbarrelsource.com.

- **Regular household items** (linens, clothes, newspapers, books, DVDs, furniture, etc.)
As you do your spring cleaning, donate as much as you can to keep these items out of our landfills. Check with your animal shelter to see if they can use old linens, newspapers, and dishes. Donate old books and DVDs to a local charity. And, consider borrowing before you buy next time. Check the local area of sites like www.craigslist.org, or www.freesharing.com.

RECYCLE

With the City's single stream RecycleBank program, Oak Ridge residents can recycle and earn rewards at the same time. The following items can all be placed into your recycle bin at home:

- Paper (white and color); Office paper, magazine, phone books, newspaper, junk mail, file folders
- Cardboard (flattened if possible) Corrugated cardboard and box board
- Metal Cans (empty of liquid)
- Aluminum and steel
- Plastics
Plastic bags, plastic bottles, containers that are codes 1-7 (look for codes on bottom of plastic container)



Waste Connections: 865-482-3656

RecycleBank: 888-727-2978
www.recyclebank.com

Learn More About Recycling at the Following Sites

- **Earth 911**
<http://earth911.com/news/2010/02/08/wow-you-can-recycle-that/>
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/recycling/>
- **Container Recycling Institute**
<http://www.container-recycling.org/facts/all>
- **All Recycling Facts.org.**
<http://www.all-recycling-facts.com/>