



**TOGETHER  
@ WORK™**

# OUR PLANET IS CHANGING

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**CLIMATE GUIDE**



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## Our world is changing faster than anyone predicted.

Globally, we are witnessing the devastating effects of climate change. In the US, the evidence is stronger than ever: elongated droughts in California, increasingly intense and more frequent hurricanes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and prolonged wildfires roaring across the West. The danger posed by climate change is unparalleled in its scale and potential for disruption and presents an existential threat to our world.

We know that how we currently power our economy and even our everyday activities release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, raising the average surface temperature of the planet. Climate change is already having an impact on our daily lives, and scientists expect those impacts to intensify. Many of the changes we have already experienced are here to stay and we need to adapt to them. And to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change we need to act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and entirely by 2050.

America's companies have a leading role to play in helping the United States deliver on its international climate targets. You can help by doing your part to reduce emissions and ensure that the organizations you work for do the same.

# WHAT ARE GREENHOUSE GASES?

The primary greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. GHGs are a natural part of the atmosphere. They absorb and emit solar radiation and keep the Earth warm enough to support life. However, concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have increased due to human activity, raising the temperature of the planet.

## Why Focus on Energy?

Generating all the energy we use creates a significant portion of our GHG emissions, but thankfully, it also happens to be an area of emissions reduction that individuals and businesses can influence.

At WWF we believe that we can transition to that is powered entirely by a renewable energy supply by 2050.

To meet this goal, we must do two things:

- Reduce our energy demand
- Transition to renewable and sustainable energy

Renewable energy is generated from sources that cannot be exhausted and which are continuously replenished, such as sunlight and wind.

You can make a difference both at work and at home by making smart and better decisions about the energy you use, your transportation choices, and the things you buy.

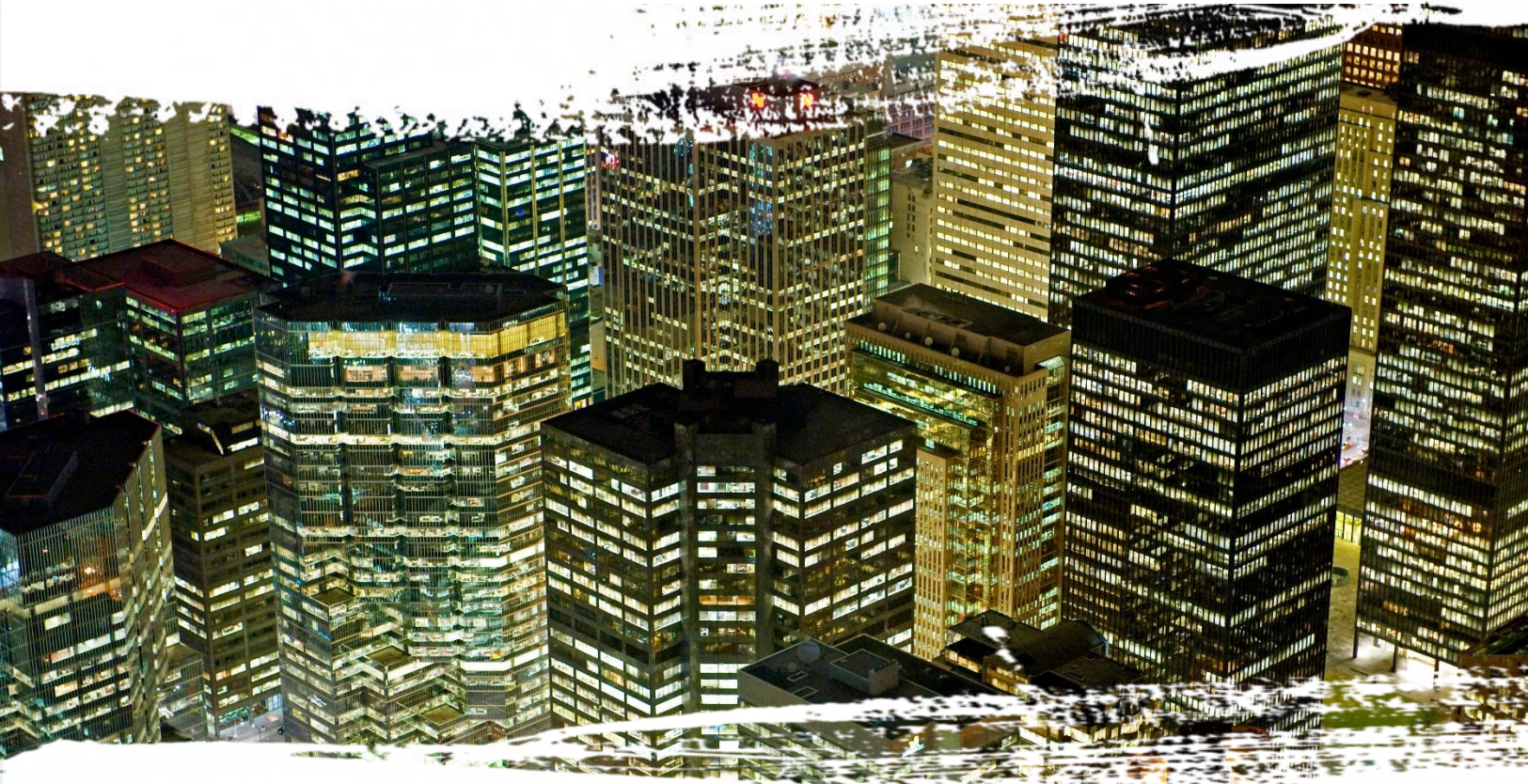


# Clean Energy for Our Future

For the largest corporations in the United States, setting sustainability goals to lessen their environmental footprint is becoming a common practice. This is good news for our planet. In fact, **nearly half of the largest companies** in the US are already capturing significant business value by cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and using clean forms of energy to power their operations.

It is everyone's responsibility to help combat climate change and preserve our planet for future generations, but as some of the world's largest energy users, businesses have a unique opportunity to lead this effort. Companies that align their business approach to the realities of climate change are helping protect the environment while seizing the financial opportunity sustainability goals unleash. That's why WWF is working with companies to help businesses create innovative strategies and partnerships to build the low-carbon economy.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



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**Is your employer “all in” on addressing climate change?** Does your organization have a goal to use 100% renewable energy? Is your organization committed to reducing its own emissions to net-zero by 2050? WWF believes that strong action on climate change that grows our economy and strengthens our energy security begins with setting ambitious goals. That's why WWF is working with businesses to set emissions reduction goals aligned with what science says is needed. And because a strong low carbon economy needs to be powered by clean and cheap renewable energy, WWF is helping business to make it easy to buy it. These businesses are telling the world that America is still in on the fight against climate change and helping America's new generation of climate leaders deliver on America's pledge. Click the below links and ask your employer to join us in:

- Scaling up the use of renewable energy nationwide by harnessing companies' **collective purchasing power**
- Reaffirming corporate **support for the Paris Climate Agreement**
- Setting and meeting **science-based climate targets**



# How Does Climate Change Affect Our Lives?

Because of the GHGs we have already released into the atmosphere, and the global warming this has caused, communities around the world are already facing challenges to their lives and livelihoods. Neighborhoods that previously experienced flooding perhaps once every few decades are now experiencing floods every other year. Whole villages in Alaska must relocate due to permafrost melt, sea level rise, and eroding coastlines. These impacts – and their cost both in money and human life – will increase as the world continues to warm.

Preparing for a climate that is already changing our landscapes and communities means working with governments, companies, community leaders and other partners to design solutions that reduce impacts and increase resilience. **Click here** to learn more about how WWF is addressing the impacts that the climate crisis is already having on our planet and its inhabitants.



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## What Can Be Done?

Climate change is a systemic, planet-wide problem, and it can feel like there's not much you can do. But you have more power than you think, particularly when we band together and act collectively.



## TURN IT OFF

Turn off electronics when they are not in use or use a power strip to easily turn multiple devices on and off all at once.



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## UNPLUG CHARGERS

Unplug chargers for mobile phones and other devices when you're not using them. Up to 50% of the energy used by a mobile phone comes from chargers left plugged in when not in use.

## KEEP UP THE MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance of heating and air conditioning systems increases their efficiency and reduces fuel costs. Be sure to clean or replace air filters as recommended. You will also increase your energy efficiency and save money by weatherizing your home, find tips [here](#).



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## LOOK INTO GREEN ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Going solar is easy, [click here](#) for WWF resources to compare costs and determine which options are right for you. And look for green rebates with your local utilities company.

## SWITCH YOUR LIGHTING

Compact fluorescent and LED lamps are more energy efficient and will last longer than standard incandescent lamps.



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## CHOOSE ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS

These electronics have the Energy Star and other energy efficiency labels. You'll help reduce CO2 emissions—and save money!



## USE GREEN ENERGY

Ask your employer to purchase energy from a green supplier.



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## LOVE YOUR LAPTOP

Ask for a laptop instead of a desktop—it consumes five times less electricity. If you must have a desktop, opt for an LCD screen instead of an outdated CRT screen.

## SAVE POWER

Enable the power saving function on your computer and other devices and turn them off when they are not in use; contrary to popular belief, screen savers do not save energy.



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## RECYCLE OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Donate old computers and office equipment to other organizations and institutions such as schools.

## DON'T TRAVEL UNLESS YOU REALLY HAVE TO

Opt for using phone, e-mail, or video conferencing wherever possible and organize a Climate Care Day.



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## JOIN US

Recruit your co-workers and building management to support climate action.

# Only Use What You Really Need

- **Lower your washing machine setting.** Cold water settings (86°F rather than 104°F) reduce electricity consumption by around 40% on average.
- **Turn it down in winter.** Set the temperature on your heating system a little lower to save energy.
- **Turn it up in summer.** By the same token, set your cooling system a little higher in summer.
- **Use water wisely.** Public water systems require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households, so saving water can lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Heat less water.** Make sure the water thermostat isn't set above 140°F and take a short shower instead of a bath to minimize the amount of energy you use to heat water.
- **Boil faster.** When using a pot for boiling water, keep it covered and it will heat up faster. Also, fill it with only as much water as you need. This will save time and electricity!







# OTHER WAYS TO HELP

## [Click Here to Support WWF's Work](#)

Your donation will support WWF's global conservation efforts, including innovative solutions that address climate change and can help transform our energy future.

## [America is All In](#)

WWF works with companies large and small to help businesses create innovative strategies and partnerships that are building the low-carbon economy. Get your company involved in working with WWF today.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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