



*Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness*

**Carbon Reduction Certificate Program.** In compliance with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first carbon dioxide “allowance” auction in the United States was established. All commercial power plants throughout the ten participating Northeastern states must acquire one RGGI (known as “reggie”) allowance for each ton of carbon dioxide they release into the atmosphere. The Adirondack Council participated in this auction and has established our Certificate Program to permanently retire carbon pollution allowances in a RGGI account.

**Cool Park/Healthy Planet.** The impacts of climate change are world wide. For many of us, identifying ways that we can make a meaningful difference can be overwhelming. Individually, each of us can do our part to reduce the emissions we contribute to the problem. As a champion for Adirondack Park conservation, the Adirondack Council is committed to advocating for power plant emissions reductions on a regional level, supporting national legislation that will reduce carbon emissions from a variety of sources, promoting clean energy and energy conservation, and advancing conservation policies that will help mitigate the impacts of climate change on the Adirondacks.

The temperature changes associated with climate change -- a more erratic but generally warmer climate year round in the Adirondack Park -- put at risk ecological processes, natural communities and native terrestrial and aquatic species in the Adirondacks.

Changes are already being noted in the northward movement of migratory bird breeding areas and earlier opening buds of flowering plants; a situation that can disrupt pollination of plants and feeding patterns of birds, insects and other species. Cold water aquatic species are especially at risk. Since many of these species are especially vulnerable during spawning and mating, temperature fluctuations could affect population levels. Species of fish that are ecologically valuable and prized catches among anglers, including brook and lake trout, could drastically decline or be lost altogether if climate change is severe. The sugar maple industry may very well no longer exist in New York within a few decades; agriculture may be disrupted by changing weather patterns; and recreation businesses based on winter snows will be in trouble.

**Adirondack Council Climate Actions.** Just as our cumulative individual actions make a difference, by focusing on our unique part of the world the Adirondack Council’s *Cool Park/Healthy Planet Program* will contribute to world-wide efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change in our region. At the Adirondack Park level, we are encouraging innovation and “smart growth” approaches to addressing the future of the region in this rapidly changing world.

Protecting wilderness areas and river corridors, and connecting wild lands across the Park and beyond its boundary will provide habitat for wide-ranging species, provide corridors for climate-change migration, and protect cold water fish species. Smart growth approaches can be used to concentrate housing and utilities infrastructure within local villages and hamlets, provide affordable broad-band access and enable people to live and work in the same place, but compete globally.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.AdirondackCouncil.org](http://www.AdirondackCouncil.org) or call us at 877-873-2240.

# Ways You Can Make a Difference

These are some ways that you can reduce your contribution to global warming.

## Home Energy Conservation

- Sign up to a **green energy** supplier. Many states will allow you to choose your supplier.
- Turn it off or unplug devices when not in use (lights, television, DVD player, computer) Devices draw power even when they are off. Turn off the power strip or unplug them when not in use. (The cell phone charger is good place to start).
- Turn down the heat (even a little bit helps) and use a programmable thermostat.
- Turn down the setting on your hot water heater.
- Fill your dish washer and washing machine with a full load. Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible.
- Go for a run rather than drive to the gym.
- Replace your standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Conduct an energy audit to learn where you are losing energy in your home. Get advice on appliances and improvements that will save energy and save you money in the long-run.

## Travel Conservation

- Carpool, bike/walk, or use public transportation if possible.
- Do your weekly shopping in a single trip.
- Discuss the possibility of four day work week with your employer.
- Consider a hybrid, biodiesel, or high mileage vehicle.
- Turn off your car engine ~ avoid idling.

## Buy Local

The local food movement has been energized by the realization that for most of us our food has travelled thousands of miles and used extraordinary resources to grow, raise and bring foods to market. Changing our eating habits is another way to make a difference.

- Reduce consumption of meat.
- Don't buy bottled water (especially if the bottled water is from far away) if your tap water is safe to drink.
- Grow your own fruits and vegetables.
- Buy locally raised meat, and fresh fruit and vegetables in season from local, organic growers.
- Choose foods with less packaging.

## Impact of Carbon Reduction

- 3 tons = 2 round-trip flights from New York to Rome
- 6 tons = 600+ gallons of gasoline
- 6 tons = nearly one year's worth of electricity use by the average American (according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
- 20 tons = the average annual carbon footprint per person in the U.S.

## Resources:

**New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** 1-866-NYSERDA or [www.nyserdera.org](http://www.nyserdera.org)  
*Energy efficiency, incentives, audits, suppliers, ways to conserve.*

**Adirondack Harvest** [www.adirondackharvest.com](http://www.adirondackharvest.com) *Local farms, food sources in the Adirondacks.*

**Energy Star** [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) *Appliances, federal tax credits, house improvements*