The average two-person household produces about 41,500 pounds of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases every year, mostly from the fuel that powers our cars, heats our homes and helps make all the stuff we buy. But there are lots of things we can do — from baby steps to giant leaps — to shrink our carbon footprints.

**UNPLUG**

- your TV, DVD player, computer, other electronics when not in use, or use a power strip to shut them down.

**CO₂ savings:** 50 pounds a year.

**DON'T LET THE WATER RUN**

- while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- for toilet and faucets leaks and take shorter showers.

**CO₂ savings:** 1,480 pounds a year.

**WASH**

- clothes in cold water, wash and dry full loads, and clean the dryer lint filter after every load.

**CO₂ savings:** 250 pounds a year.

**SEAL UP**

- keep the damper closed on the fireplace and wood stove when not in use, and use energy-saving electric stoves when replacing old windows.

**CO₂ savings:** 2,460 pounds a year.

**REPLACE**

- conventional light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

**CO₂ savings for replacing 1,000 incandescent bulbs:** 50 pounds a year.

**PAPER OR PLASTIC**

- at the checkout bag? Four plastic bags take less energy to produce, but the better choice is to bring a reusable bag, such as a canvas bag, to carry your groceries home.

**CO₂ savings:** 40 pounds a year.

**PLANT A TREE**

- Wild placed trees create shade and lower cooling bills. They also use carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and can remove 50 pounds of CO₂ a year.

**USE**

- toaster ovens and microwaves to roast small portions. They use much less energy than oven-toaster ovens.

**CO₂ savings:** 220 pounds a year.

**BUY**

- products with less packaging and those in containers that can be recycled. Use products made from recycled materials.

**CO₂ savings:** 50 pounds a year.

**TRADE IN**

- that gas hog for a more fuel-efficient car.

**UNLOAD**

- unneeded items in your trunk to improve fuel economy by as much as 5 percent.

**TURN OFF**

- unused lights.

**RECYCLE**

- your paper, cardboard, beverage containers, glass and metal, and campsite food and yard waste.