

Join The One-Tonne Challenge

Think globally, act locally:

Canadian author takes the One-Tonne Challenge, saves 60% on heating costs

(NC)—As the author of “Dancing at the Dead Sea: Tracking the World’s Environmental Hot Spots”, Alanna Mitchell is used to looking at the big picture.

She also knows that local actions can have a major impact on that big picture. That, plus the spiralling costs of heating her drafty old Toronto home, motivated her to get an EnerGuide for Houses energy evaluation.

With the advice she received, she weather-stripped her doors and caulked windows, insulated her spare room and attic, put in two thermal windows and installed a new high-efficiency furnace.

As a result, she reduced her heating costs by 60% and her greenhouse gas emissions by three tonnes!

“Three tonnes is fantastic,” says Alanna. “Knowing where I was when I started and when I finished gave me a real sense of accomplishment.”

Alanna has met her goal under the One-Tonne Challenge, a Government of Canada program encouraging Canadians to reduce their individual emissions of the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change by one tonne, or 20%. But she hasn’t stopped there. She now drives as little as possible, and doesn’t use her car at least one or two days each week.

It’s easy to get a home energy evaluation. You may even be eligible for a grant from the Government of Canada for the energy-saving recommendations you implement. Check out the EnerGuide for Houses program at www.oeecan.gc.ca/houses-maisons. Find out about the One-Tonne Challenge at www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca or call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY 1 800 465-7735 for a free tips guide.

- News Canada

Learn how to save money and help the environment online

(NC)—Where can you learn how to save money and protect the environment while testing your knowledge against other Canadians? The One-Tonne Challenge web site, www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca, does it all!

The One-Tonne Challenge asks Canadians to reduce their emissions of the greenhouse gases (GHGs) that contribute to climate change by one tonne, or 20%. Each Canadian produces, on average, five tonnes annually, accounting for 28% of Canada’s total emissions.

Taking the One-Tonne Challenge will not only help the environment, it will save you money, by reducing your energy costs. Since half our personal emissions come from driving and another 30% from heating and cooling our homes, those are obvious places to start.

The One-Tonne web site is full of information and tools to help you take up the challenge:

- an easy-to-use calculator lets you estimate your annual GHG emissions and determine where to make reductions;
- a 22-page tips guide helps you reduce your energy consumption at home and on the road (also available through 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY 1 800 465-7735);
- an incentives and rebates section indicates what support is available to help you



reduce your emissions. There are rebates for installing something as small as a programmable thermostat – or as major as a high-efficiency furnace. You’ll find incentives to get rid of your old, polluting car and to buy energy-efficient new appliances. Search the database by province or type of program to find out what’s available to help you.

Test your knowledge against other Canadians, by entering the KnowZone to play an online trivia game.

Find out more about climate change and what you can do at www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca. Join thousands of Canadians who have pledged to take action on climate change!

- News Canada

Communities taking up the One-Tonne Challenge against climate change

(NC)—They say it takes a village to raise a child – and sometimes, it takes a community to help slow climate change.

Across Canada, more than 40 communities are helping their citizens participate in the One-Tonne Challenge, a national effort to encourage all Canadians to reduce their emissions of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change by one tonne, or 20%.

From Newfoundland to British Columbia to Canada’s North, Community Challenges are bringing together community groups, local governments, school boards, chambers of commerce, and businesses to provide easy access to local information, programs, services and tools to help Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

“The beauty of the One-Tonne Challenge is that there are really good alternative choices available,” said Eva Ligeti, Executive Director of Clean Air Partnership, one of the partners in One Tonne Toronto, or OTTO. “The biggest problem is getting people to understand that they’re not giving up comfort; it’s not about sacrifices, but about making choices to save money and the environment.”

Find out if there is a Community Challenge near you at www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca. You’ll also find tips on saving money and reducing energy use, and an online trivia game to test your knowledge against other Canadians. Call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY 1 800 465-7735 for a free, 22-page One-Tonne Challenge tips guide.

- News Canada

Spring into action with the One-Tonne Challenge: Care for your yard and conserve energy

(NC)—Spring’s coming, and from beneath a winter’s worth of snow and ice, our lawns and gardens are emerging, demanding our attention and our free time from now until – well, next winter!

There are lots of easy ways to care for your yard that conserve energy and save money. Using less energy reduces your greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. That’s the idea behind the Government of Canada’s One-Tonne Challenge, which asks Canadians to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions by one tonne, or 20%.

Here are some tips to help meet the challenge while working in your yard:

- Limit your use of gas-powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers. Gas-powered mowers produce about 48 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions in a season and as much air pollution as a car driven 550 kilometres.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn, where they break down and add needed nutrients, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Capture rainwater for your garden. A cistern or rain barrel reduces your need for tap water. Ensure your barrel is covered with a tight-fitting lid or screen to keep mosquitoes from breeding.
- Water early in the morning, after the dew has dried, to reduce evaporation. More than half the water applied to lawns and gardens can be lost due to evaporation or run-off when you over-water. Most lawns and gardens need about 2-3 cm, or 1 inch, of water per week.



For more information about the One-Tonne Challenge and how you can save money and energy, visit www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca and ask for a free tips guide, or call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY 1 800 465-7735.

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The One-Tonne Challenge: Home energy efficiency can be good for your mortgage

(NC)—Making your home more energy-efficient is a winning proposition – it saves you money and makes your home more comfortable. It also helps you achieve the One-Tonne Challenge goal of reducing your annual emissions of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change by one tonne, or 20 percent.

Now, with a new program from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), being energy-efficient could also make you eligible for a refund of 10 percent on your mortgage loan insurance premium when you use a CMHC-insured mortgage loan to buy or build an energy-efficient home or make energy-saving renovations to your home. In addition, qualified borrowers also have the added flexibility of extending the

amortization period (the time required to repay your mortgage) from 25 to a maximum of 35 years through participating lenders.

Mortgage loan insurance allows Canadians to buy a home with less than a 25 percent down payment – sometimes as little as 5 percent. In fact, CMHC mortgage loan insurance has made home ownership possible for millions of Canadians.

Find out more about the One-Tonne Challenge and how to take advantage of CMHC’s program by visiting www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca (check out the Incentives and Rebates section).

Or call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY 1 800 465-7735 for a free tips guide.

- News Canada

Lighting the way to reduced emissions – One-Tonne Challenge

(NC)—Winnipeg homeowner Penny Flock switched all the light bulbs in her home to compact fluorescent bulbs. Now, she’s saving almost \$85, or about 17%, in electricity costs in just one year!

“There are so many great products out there that use less energy,” says Penny. “I’m incredibly excited about making changes at home that save me money and are good for the environment.”

Penny’s actions support the One-Tonne Challenge, a Government of Canada program that encourages Canadians to take action against climate change by reducing their annual greenhouse gas emissions by one tonne, or about 20%.

The One-Tonne Challenge hits the road: Make fuel efficiency part of your choice

(NC)—Thinking of buying a new vehicle? Whatever you’re looking for – a compact, a family station wagon, or even an SUV – there’s a fuel-efficient model that meets your everyday needs.

Driving a fuel-efficient vehicle cuts the smog-creating emissions that pollute our air and reduces the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. What you choose to drive does impact the environment. For example, a late-model vehicle driven 20,000 km a year produces:

- Sports utility vehicle – 6 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Mid-sized sedan – 4 tonnes of CO₂
- Hybrid (gas-electric) – 2 tonnes of CO₂

Each Canadian emits an average of five tonnes of greenhouse gases annually – 28% of Canada’s total emissions. The Government of Canada is asking Canadians, through the One-Tonne Challenge, to reduce their personal emissions by one tonne, or 20%. Since half our emissions come from transportation, focusing on the vehicle you drive and how you use it is a great way to make a difference.

If you’re in the market for a new vehicle, check out the 2005 EnerGuide Award winners for most fuel-efficient vehicles in their class: Honda Insight, Volkswagen New Beetle TDI, Toyota Echo Hatchback, Honda Civic Hybrid, Toyota Prius, Chevrolet Malibu Maxx, Volkswagen Jetta TDI Wagon, Pontiac Vibe, Toyota Matrix, Ford Ranger, Mazda B2300, Ford Escape Hybrid, Honda Odyssey EX-L. Find out more at www.vehicles.gc.ca.

Whether your vehicle is new or old, you can reduce your emissions from driving and save money too. Find out how at www.onetonnechallenge.gc.ca, or call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY 1 800 465-7735 for your free, 22-page tips guide.

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