

# Top 10 actions you can take to reduce your personal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Reduce your home heating and cooling costs

ACTION	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Insulate your home. Install a high efficiency furnace or geothermal system to heat and cool your home which can reduce your home heating bills by approximately 40% to 70% per year.	up to 10 tonnes

## 2. Drive your personal vehicle less – walk, bike, bus or carpool

ACTION	ANNUAL FUEL SAVINGS	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS \$1.10 per litre	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Bike or walk	2,300 litres	\$2,500	5.5 tonnes
Use public transit	1,800 litres	\$2,000 (minus cost of a bus pass)	5.0 tonnes
Carpool with one other person	1,100 litres	\$1,200	2.5 tonnes

## 3. Drive the most efficient vehicle that can meet your needs

ACTION	ANNUAL FUEL SAVINGS	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS \$1.10 PER LITRE	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Upgrade from a pre-1995 to 2007 model vehicle resulting in 65 times fewer harmful emissions	1,000 litres	\$1,100	2.5 tonnes

## 4. Keep your vehicle well maintained

ACTION	ANNUAL FUEL SAVINGS	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS \$1.10 PER LITRE	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Service your vehicle regularly to improve fuel efficiency by 15% to 50%	up to 1,000 litres	up to \$1,100	up to 2.5 tonnes

## 5. Avoid the use of 2 stroke engines – boats, lawnmowers and snowmobiles

ACTION	ANNUAL FUEL SAVINGS	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS \$1.10 PER LITRE	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Upgrade from a 2 to 4 stroke lawn mower	35 - 325 litres	\$40 - \$350	Up to 0.8 tonne
Upgrade from a 2 stroke to an electric battery or push lawn mower	50 - 500 litres	\$55 - \$550	Up to 1.0 tonne

## 6. Be idle free - 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your car

ACTION	ANNUAL FUEL SAVINGS	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS \$1.10 PER LITRE	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Idle 10 minutes less/day	100 litres	\$110	0.25 tonne

## 7. Unplug or retire your second, older fridge

ACTION	ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS	ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Unplug or retire old fridge	840 KWH	\$42	0.5 tonne

## 8. Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost household waste

ACTION	ANNUAL GHG REDUCTION
Composting helps avoid the methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ) produced when organic matter breaks down in a landfill. Methane traps 21 times more heat than carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ). Composting can reduce the amount of garbage your family produces by a third.	0.1 tonne

## 9. Carefully manage fertilizer application

Nitrogen-based fertilizers produce nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) which traps 310 times more heat reflected from the Earth than carbon dioxide and can cause surface and groundwater contamination. Consider organic options such as mulched lawn clippings and composted waste.

## 10. Plant trees

Planting trees around your home can save you an average of 20 to 25% in energy costs, in comparison to an unsheltered house. Trees also absorb carbon. Choose local species that are adapted to Manitoba's climate and require less water and maintenance.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Analysis based on data from Environment Canada <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FD980E51-1>

<sup>2</sup> Fuel consumption based on 16,000 km traveled annually an average fuel economy 15 l/100 km.