

# Climate Change

## and Rhode Island

Fact Sheet #3

## TAKE ACTION!

### Winning Solutions to Cut Energy Bills, Save Money and Slow Climate Change!

Climate change — caused by greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuel to heat, cool and light buildings and to power vehicles and machinery — is a major concern for Rhode Island. Every time we drive a car, flip on a light switch, or turn on the heat, we release greenhouse gases. You can help slow global climate change by taking action today and making a commitment to the winning solutions below. Many will also save you money. Remember: individual actions may seem small, but if everyone makes changes - together, we can turn the world around!

#### At Home - What You Can Do:

- Reduce your home heating and electricity use. Use energy efficient fluorescent lights, weatherproof your house, plant native trees for shade, clean vents and radiators, install low-flow showerheads. Local electric companies offer energy efficiency rebates and free energy audits to determine how your house can become more energy efficient.
- Choose Energy Star appliances. New Energy Star refrigerators use 40 per cent less energy than models made just 10 years ago. Installing Energy Star light bulbs lowers household energy requirements. The less energy we use, the less money we have to spend. For more information about Energy Star appliances, visit EPA's Energy Star web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).
- Check fuel economy ratings at [www.fuel-economy.gov](http://www.fuel-economy.gov) before you buy your next car to make sure it's fuel efficient and low polluting. If your new car gets 32 miles per gallon, you can reduce emissions by about 5,600 pounds per year and save money.
- Walking, biking, carpooling or taking a RIPTA bus to get to one of your regular destinations reduces pollution emissions and cuts back on your transportation costs.
- Buy products that are made locally. Cargo ships, airplanes and trucks burn lots of fossil fuels to transport goods. Local purchasing reduces the amount of pollution from transportation. Call DEM's Division of Agriculture at 222-2781 or visit [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov) for Rhode Island-grown products.



The owner of a car that gets 32 miles per gallon will spend \$724 less on gas each year than the owner of a 20 mpg car! Above, these Rhode Islanders are doing their part by driving super ultra low-emission hybrid vehicles which get up to 60 mpg. From left to right, Myron Waldman, Eliana Waldmanwerth, Sharon Lee Waldman, and Katrina Waldmanwerth, Michael Durette, Timothy Hutzley and Meimei Tsang.



Above, Brian Mancieri, Manager, 1776 Liquors, 145 Main Street, Warren

### **1776 Liquors Saves \$2,400 Annually on Energy Costs**

1776 Liquors of Warren, Rhode Island saves \$2,400 a year on energy costs, thanks to Narragansett Electric's Small Business Services programs. The business lowered its annual energy usage by over 25,000 kWh by installing fan controls and door heater controls. Narragansett programs recommended the energy efficient measures and paid over \$3,440 toward the installation. 1776 Liquors' investment paid for itself in just eight months!

"Our business offers consumers fine products and knowledgeable service, but keeping pricing competitive is also important. Installing energy efficiency measures gives us over \$2400 in savings every year. That's money we can really use to invest in maintaining our fine selection." -- Tom Souza, Owner, 1776 Liquors.

For more information, call Narragansett Electric at 1-800-332-3333 or visit their website at [www.narragansett.com](http://www.narragansett.com).

## **At Work - What Businesses Can Do:**

- Buy energy-saving office appliances and equipment, such as EnergyStar-approved computers, LCD monitors, printers and photocopiers. Reducing a company's energy requirements saves energy and money at the same time.
- Install lighting controls to turn lights on only when needed and to provide the required amount of light to reduce energy needs.
- Encourage staff to take alternative modes of transportation for their daily commute at least once a month. This can include options such as car-pooling, cycling, taking the bus or walking where possible.
- Create an office recycling program. Encourage your staff to be mindful of how much paper they use - remind your staff that copying and printing on both sides of a page saves trees and money.
- If you have a fleet of vehicles, try to use the most energy-efficient models possible.
- Energy-efficiency upgrades and retrofits to office buildings can have both short and long-term paybacks. Most electric companies offer FREE energy audits and recommend appropriate energy efficiency measures for your business. If you decide to install the energy improvements, they may also pay a portion of the installation and equipment costs!

## **Learn More To Save Energy And Money**

The Alliance to Save Energy offers consumers a variety of tips to fit individual pocketbooks, including no-cost and low-cost money and energy saving tips. Visit their website at [www.ase.org/consumers](http://www.ase.org/consumers). Also, be sure to call or visit the website of your local electric company. Most offer rebates and incentive programs to help you lower your energy bills.

### **RHODE ISLAND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSORTIUM**

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