



Give us less than 15 minutes of your time, and we'll show you a simple way to save money and save the planet, too.



Green Needham Collaborative has created the 10% Energy Challenge, a Web-based program for reducing your carbon footprint by 10 percent. Visit challenge.greenneedham.org, click a few buttons, and let the program do the number crunching.

You can start with the carbon footprint of the average American household (54,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year) or use an on-line calculator to compute your actual number. CO₂ is the most common of the greenhouse gases that lead to global warming

The Green Needham program provides a running total of how many pounds of CO₂ you can keep out of the atmosphere through such basic steps as turning down the thermostat, replacing light bulbs, and changing driving habits. In addition, you can see the impact of more ambitious projects, such as adding insulation, replacing an old furnace, and buying a more fuel-efficient car.

The program includes links to more in-depth information, such as how to cut hot water bills or starve the vampire that sucks power from TVs, computers, and other devices even when they are turned off. We offer 18 suggestions for shrinking your footprint. Adopting just a few can make a big difference.

When you're done, you'll have a plan tailored to your household that you can print it out for easy reference. Then, click on *Submit* and we'll add your energy savings to our tally of town-wide reductions.

“Although you can't control the price of oil and gas, you can cut back a surprising amount of what you use,” says Michael Greis, co-founder and co-chair of Green Needham Collaborative. “We'd like Needham to be a leader in the effort to reduce carbon emissions. What each of us does matters.”

Greis notes that Green Needham has set a goal of enlisting 250 Needham households and businesses in the challenge, but hopes to greatly exceed that number. For every 100 households that take part, it is the equivalent of taking 50 cars off the road.

Green Needham, together with the Needham League of Women Voters, is spreading the word about the 10 percent Energy Challenge by speaking to schools, churches, and civic organizations. The town of Needham, through the EPA Community Energy Challenge, has already committed to reducing its energy use, and a separate effort is underway to bring businesses on board.

“People I talk to want to save energy, but sometimes they get overwhelmed by all the information and just don't know where to start,” says Eleanor Rosellini, a collaborative member who helped develop the program. “The 10% Energy Challenge collects the best energy-saving tips and shows people step-by-step how they can make a plan to cut energy use and save money.”

Organizers of the campaign are pleased that prominent community leaders including Selectmen John Bulian, Denise Garlick, and Jerry Wasserman, as well as State Representative Lida Harkins, have agreed to take the Challenge to reduce their energy use.

Contacts for more information on the **Green Needham Collaborative** or the **10% Challenge**:
Michael Greis, mgreis@comcast.net, 781 559-4623 or **Eleanor Rosellini, efrosell@aol.com 781 453-9526**

Green Needham Collaborative brings together individuals and organizations in Needham to build a more sustainable community through collaborative efforts on energy and the environment.

Visit us at <http://www.greenneedham.org>