

Climate Change Starts - and Stops - Right Here



Buildings consume an estimated 48 percent of all energy in the United States; California homes and buildings generally consume less energy than their cold- and hot-weather counterparts (think Chicago and Houston), but their impact is still significant: the power plants that generate electricity, and the natural gas boilers that heat water, generate greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. Nearly half of the electricity used in Los Angeles is produced by coal, one of the most polluting fuels.

But there are solutions:

Reduce your electricity usage

- Use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs or LEDs
- Plug TVs, DVD players-anything with a remote control-into power strips, and turn the strips off when you're not using those electronics.
- Your mother was right: turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- Install ceiling fans so you can run the air conditioning less, or set the thermostat higher in the summer.

Buy cleaner electricity

- Sign up for Green Power, which is electricity generated with clean, renewable power (like wind and solar).

Conserve water

- Water is energy intensive; it takes a lot of energy to pump, purify and treat wastewater (sewage):
 - Plant native plants that are drought-resistant.
 - Use smart sprinklers that don't over water.
 - If you must water, water early or late, when evaporation is at a minimum.
 - Install a dual-flush toilet.

This message has been brought to you by Wilshire Center's *Cool District* with the help of Green and Beyond. The Wilshire Center Business Improvement Corporation (WCBIC) has been working to improve the community for the past thirteen years. We've come a long way over the years; the present is good and the future is bright. And we're working to make it even brighter. Wilshire Center members have pledged to reduce the district's emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a global warming gas, by 2% a year for each of the next 40 years.

Wilshire Center occupies 2 square miles, is home to 1,000 retail businesses, over 50,000 residents, employs over 30,000 people and hosts thousands of visitors.