

# Practical Adaptation Actions for Residents



Adaptation deals with preparing for and minimizing the negative impacts of climate change.

## Is your home flood resilient?

- Know your [flood risk](#) and what to do based on which [flood zone](#) you are located in.
- Familiarize yourself with [local emergency plans](#): know where to go and how to get there.
- Build or restock your [emergency preparedness kit](#).

## How ready are you for coastal erosion and landslides?

- Familiarize yourself with any [geological risk](#)
- Evaluate protective structures like retaining walls, drainage infrastructure and sea walls
- Incorporate climate considerations (e.g. effects of flooding, waves and erosion) in residential building design

## Be fire wise!

Do:

- Remove dry vegetation from underneath trees
- Plant low-fuel plants: vegetable gardens, lawn, ice plant, morning glory, agapanthus, oleander, pyracantha, yucca, star jasmine, periwinkle, redbud, potato vine, daylily
- Plant trees so that they don't touch and they are at least 10 feet from the chimney.

Don't:

- Allow overgrown brush and flammable plants to overhang the roof,
- plant scented plants as they ignite easily, keep firewood or gas grills close to home,
- block the side yard, or anything else that would prevent access for firefighters.

## Be aware of drought status!

- Monitor your [drought conditions](#)
- Implement these water conservation measures in the time of [drought](#)
- Excessive water waste is always illegal in the City

City residents should [register](#) for Santa Cruz's regional 911 notification system for alerts on natural and emergency hazards.

Get engaged with the City's [Climate Action Program](#) to establish community values around developing short and long term climate hazard adaptation response strategies for the City.



# Practical Emission Reduction Actions for Residents

Mitigation consists of actions to limit the severity or rate of long-term climate change and generally involves reductions in human emissions of greenhouse gases .

## Redefine your Energy Needs!

- Reduce water heating and space heating/cooling and regularly maintain those systems.
- Switch to LED lightbulbs.
- Buy EnergyStar and unplug unused electronics to minimize standby power consumption.
- Lower lights and heat when you are not at home.
- Change your diet! Eating less meat is beneficial to the environment because cows produce more greenhouse gases than all of our air transport put together.

## Embrace a Waste-Free Lifestyle!

- Minimize purchases of new products, especially heavily-packaged products.
- Buy, borrow or rent used clothing, electronics, furnishings, cars and other products locally whenever possible. Avoid “fast fashion.”
- [Recycle](#) resources and check out [freecycle.com](http://freecycle.com).
- Reuse permanent serveware and eliminate use of paper and plastic food serving ware, storage containers, napkins, straws, paper towels, bags, etc.
- Check out [rebates](#) on bins and compost your food waste.

## Tune up your Transportation!

- Adjust your driving style - speeding & acceleration reduce mileage by up to 33%.
- Check your tires' inflation and other tune-ups can improve gas mileage by up to 3%.
- Avoid traffic through use of transit, traffic websites and apps like Waze, or wait.
- Telecommute, bike/share, e-bike, walk or carpool through carpooling apps like [Scoop!](#)
- Save gas by eating locally, visit local farmers markets and restaurants.

## Every Drop of Water Counts!

- Check out free low flow shower and faucet heads and City [rebates](#) on other water conservation measures like greywater systems and turf and toilet replacement.
- Wash clothes in cold water and hang them to dry - one dryer load uses 5x more electricity than washing.
- Check out [rebates](#) for low water-needs plants or artificial turf when landscaping

Offsetting your unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions is a practical and immediate way to take ownership of *your* personal contribution to climate change. Keep carbon offset dollars and benefits local by offsetting at [Monterey Bay Carbon Fund!](#)