

# CARBON NEUTRALITY: WHY GO CARBON NEUTRAL?

*Mohamed Fazeeh*

Going carbon neutral is an easy way to take responsibility for the greenhouse gas emissions we create every time we drive our cars, take a plane, or turn on our computers. It's based on the principle that, since climate change is a global problem, an emission reduction made elsewhere has the same positive effect as one made locally.

To solve the problem of climate change, we all need to take account of our personal carbon emissions and make continued efforts to reduce them ourselves. But it is impossible to reduce our carbon emissions to zero, no matter how hard we try.

## **Three places to cut your carbon**

You can have a big impact on moving us all toward a greener future in the individual choices you make each day. These are some of the easiest and most effective ways, in four key areas, to reduce our carbon footprint and help improve our quality of life.

*continued on page 6*

## Transportation

Transportation accounts for almost half of noxious air pollution, more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions, and one quarter of common air contamination and almost one-fifth of water toxicity. To make a difference:

- Walk, bike, carpool or take transit to get to one of your regular destinations each week.
- If you are moving, choose a home within a 30-minute bike, walk or transit ride from your daily destinations. A convenient place to live reduces the amount you drive, which means you'll lower your greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.

## Energy

Wasting energy hurts nature and your wallet because energy efficiency means lower bills as well as less pollution. Here's how to stem your energy leaks:

- Reduce your home cooling/heating and electricity use. A more energy-efficient home will lower your utility bills and reduce the emissions that cause climate change. Find out how you can increase energy efficiency in your home through the Energy Guides for Homes and other programs.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances. Like efficient bulbs, TV, refrigerators and air conditioner etc

## Food

There are so many humans on the planet, simply feeding ourselves has led to all kinds of environmental havoc air and water pollution, loss of soil and reduced biodiversity. We can have a huge effect on climate change by simply changing a few of our food habits. Here's how.

- Eat wisely. Choose foods that are local, organic and low on the food chain whenever possible. Make the most of seasonal foods.
- Take care of your trash. Composting all organic waste and recycling paper, cardboard, cans and bottles will help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfills.

