

Ten Things You can do to FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate change is the greatest threat facing our generation. The news gets scarier and bleaker every day. The problem can seem so overwhelming that it is hard to avoid feeling powerless and hopeless. But as the saying goes “action is the best antidote to despair.” Unfortunately, when we’re encouraged to stand up and get involved, it can be hard to know what practical steps to take. What does “taking climate action” mean and how do we do it? Here’s a list of specific actions you can take right now.

1 Advocate climate solutions where it counts

- a. Get on the phone, write a letter or ask for a meeting with:
 - ii. Politicians - contact your Federal, State and Council officials.
 - iii. See ACF’s guide on how to get your local MP to listen
 - iv. Experts, Committees, Advisory Councils, etc.
 - v. Lobby groups and peak bodies, corporations
 - vi. Think tanks, non-government organisations and not-for-profit groups
- b. See QCC’s Climate Action Points on what to say
- c. Engage in public consultation processes
- d. Media - write letters to the editor, call talkback radio (ACF has a great guide on ‘how to change the story,’ here).
- e. Organise a local community group - see ACF’s how to guide.
- f. Attend protests, lobby days, and show political will for climate action

2 Vote and/or run for office

- a. Vote for candidates in your electorate that will support meaningful climate action (Check your electoral enrolment is up to date).
- b. If there’s no suitable candidate, run for office - or help someone you know
 - i. See the Australian Electoral Commission’s webpage for everything you need to know about throwing your hat in the ring for political office
- c. Volunteer for MPs that will make a difference

3 Save energy and go renewable

- a. Save on energy and bills - both at home and in the workplace
 - i. Switch to renewables
 - ii. Through your retailer (link to guide on what to look for)
 - iii. Invest in your own (link to some ideas)
 - iv. If you rent - talk to the body corporate, or landlord (link to QCOSS)

4 Tread lightly

- a. For your daily commute - cycle, walk, scoot, or use public transit
- b. If you must drive, go electric (Guide on switching to an EV)
- c. Avoid flying, and if you must, purchase offsets to send a market signal

5 Divest & Invest

- a. Banking - Where you keep your money may be supporting fossil fuels.
 - i. See Market Forces comparison table, and if needed, make the switch to divest from fossil fuels (make sure you let them know why you’re leaving)
 - ii. e.g. Bank Australia is a green option with lots of branches
- b. Superannuation - Go to Superswitch.org.au to see if you need to switch to divest from fossil fuels (make sure you let them know why you’re leaving)
- c. Are your investments in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) funds?
- d. Invest in renewables, carbon offsets and low carbon alternatives to send a market signal

6 Protect nature

- a. Trees, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity must be protected from clearing if we’re to maintain a livable climate
- b. Advocate for green policy with your local council
- c. Join a local bush care group to plant more trees to take carbon out of the atmosphere. Contact your local Councillor’s office for details.
- d. Support sustainable land use practices through purchases (e.g. FSC paper/wood products, palm oil free products, recycled) and advocacy

7 Waste not, want not

- a. Reduce food and other waste
- b. Avoid before you recycle
- c. Eat less red meat
- d. If possible, buy local and grow your own
- e. Reuse and repair where possible - join a cooperative
- f. Share more (e.g. does everyone need a car?)

8 Reach out and talk about it

- a. Have conversations about climate change with your friends and family
 - i. Don’t know what to say? Here’s a guide to get started.
- b. Ask if they want to know what they can do
- c. Share actions you’re taking (talk about it, post to social media, etc.)
- d. If they like to read, share books and information on solutions (such as QCC’s report and books like Paul Hawken’s Drawdown)

9 Give to charities

- a. There are many groups out there working on solutions, including:
 - i. Women’s education (the most effective way to reduce environmental impacts and slow population growth)
 - ii. Forest and nature protection, conservation
 - iii. Tree planting, natural resource management and rehabilitation
 - iv. Research and policy advocacy
 - v. Holding decision makers and private corporations to account

www.queenslandconservation.org.au/donate

10 Share this list.

*Some actions only apply to urban dwellers. Advice based on information available in September 2018.