Engage

Create affordable energy and less waste in your world.

A common sense guide to saving energy costs, conserving natural resources and reducing waste.

Nobody made a greater mistake
than he who did nothing because
he could do only a little. ~ *Edmund Burke*

The Blue Marble

For about five decades, NASA has studied earth as diligently as outer space. The 1969 Apollo 11 Mission gave us televised viewing of NASA's maiden moon landing. Neil Armstrong gave us his legendary broadcast, ***"One small step for man – one giant leap for mankind."*** And photos from the Apollo 8 mission gave us the first outer space vision of our planet, aptly named **the Blue Marble**. Then, in 2005, NASA completed a satellite photo composite named **Blue Marble: Next Generation**. This study (plus 38 years of satellite observation) gives us no-nonsense evidence of perilous changes occurring on our land surfaces, coastal oceans, sea ice, and clouds. It's hardly news that man-made pollution in our atmosphere, waterways and soil put our health and environment at great risk. How can this fragile ecosystem continue to sustain a world population of seven billion, the pleasures of our own lives, and the lifestyles of future generations?

Take on the Blue Marble challenge!

Start with small steps to **conserve energy, protect natural resources, and reduce waste.** Your small steps – along with others in your community – will size up to one **giant leap** for mankind.

Take the Blue Marble challenge! Find your game plan inside...

Go Team Earth!

The Blue Marble Challenge is a simple but serious lifestyle game that you can play at home, work or school. Think about the marble game kids used to play in a circle drawn in the dirt.

The goal of each player was to position their most valuable Shooter marble to knock out all other marbles from the circle. In the Blue Marble version, you take on the position of **Shooter** and represent **Team Earth**. Your goal is to lower your energy expenses while helping the earth sustain your life.

Your game plan is to take steps from this guide that are free, low-cost or require a long-term investment. You win every time you take a small step knowing that it adds up to a giant leap for you, your community and beyond. **Go team!!**

Co_2

take down energy costs

Weatherization

- Invest in a low-cost audit (home checkup). For a list of auditors and rebate information, visit **pge.com/myhome** (select Energy Upgrade California) or call PG&E customer service at (800) 743-5000.
- Apply weather stripping to doors and caulk windows.
- Inspect ductwork for leaking and bent or compressed ducts – repair as needed.
- Check insulation in roof, attic, walls and crawl spaces. For example, upgrading to R-38 insulation in your attic can save up to 20% on utility bills. It's easy to understand R-values/types of insulation and safe installation practices by visiting a home improvement store, consulting a professional or learning how to do it yourself at **ornl.gov** (search for insulation).

Explore More Find out if your home is a smart home at resnet.us.

Water Heating

- Lower water heater setting to no more than 120°. Each 10° drop can save 3-5% on utility bills.
- Electric water heaters: Insulate tank and pipes to keep water hotter. R-24 insulation can reduce heat loss by 25-45% and save 4-9% on utility bills.
- Demand/Tankless water heaters: Install a gas, electric or solar-powered Demand/Tankless water heater to reduce heat loss by 100%. They only heat water (fairly quickly) when you "demand" heated water by turning on a hot water faucet. Make sure the size water heater you buy matches the size and needs of your home. This considerable investment will return substantial long-term savings on energy costs.

Explore More DOE Energy Savers Tips at energysavers.gov.

Heating & Cooling

- Set thermostat at 68° in winter and 78° in summer to save as much as 5% on utility bills.
- Install a programmable thermostat to adjust temperatures when you're away or sleeping.

Explore More ENERGY STAR products and features at energystar.gov.

Lighting

- Upgrade to energy efficient light bulbs (90% of energy from standard bulbs is lost as heat). Compared to standard bulbs, ENERGY STAR lighting provides bright warm light, uses about 75% less energy than standard lighting, produces 75% less heat and lasts up to 10 times longer.
- Strategically place light fixtures and furniture to maximize light from windows and skylights.
- Apply lighter, warmer colored paint on walls and ceilings to naturally lighten your home.

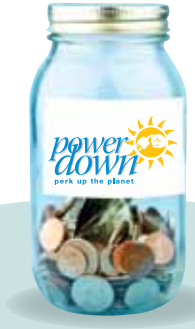
Explore More Indoor Air Quality at epa.gov/iaq/homes.

Power Down

Appliances, computers and other gizmos:

- Connect all plugs and adaptors to a master surge protector power strip. Use this master power strip switch alone or at the end of a chain to turn off all electronics.
- Unplug chargers and adaptors you don't continuously use. If you're not using gizmos for an hour or more, flip the master power strip off and turn out the lights!

BEFORE YOU CALL IT A DAY, TURN THE MASTER POWER STRIP OFF!



It's a Power Play

My neighbor José is saving a bundle on utility bills. First he "weatherized" his place and insulated the hot water heater. Then he convinced his wife and kids to compete in a Power Down game – to keep bills down and show respect for the planet. Game rules include taking five-minute showers and turning off lights along with a cash incentive. When anyone confesses (or is caught) breaking a Power Down rule, they're fined one quarter. Quarters go into Power Down jars – one jar for each family member. At the end of each month, the player with the fewest quarters in his or her jar wins everyone's quarters. Make your own game plan by using this guide to take down everyday energy costs. The change adds up!

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Gas Alert
Energy improvements increase the potential for lethal CO gas buildup from gas/oil furnaces, water heaters and dryers. Have a professional inspect all CO-emitting appliances for proper venting. By law, CO detectors are mandatory in single-family homes as of July 2011 and in multi-family or other residences as of January 2013.

Test Drive New Technologies

When I saw my neighbor Jake and son washing their new car, I walked over and asked, **"Why a Hybrid?"** Jake Sr. raised a victory fist and crowed, **"It's my family finances vs. the oil industry – and we're going to win back our freedom!"** Turns out Jake Jr. (car washer & eco-student) helped Dad research Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) at the Library and online. After Jake educated his family about everything on the market and environmental impacts, they voted to go Hybrid.

You can win the battle at the pump by checking out the impressive selection of AFVs available now or coming soon. Once you evaluate lifestyle, budget and environmental concerns, cast your vote for **Biodiesel, Electric, Hybrid, Hydrogen Fuel Cell, Natural Gas or another AFV** – or convert your gas-guzzler to an alternative fuel vehicle.

drive smarter
with alternative fuels

Hybrids

Notice more Hybrids on the road in more classes, sizes, colors and shapes than ever before? Consumers are happy with the economy of operating Hybrids and proud that their wheels tread gently on the air we breathe.

- Hybrids are powered alternately by traditional gas engines (when driving) and batteries (when idling).
- The most common type uses a regenerative breaking system and motor, which acts as a generator to charge batteries with electrical energy. This type can also plug into an electrical source to charge batteries.
- Because their gas engines shut down while idling, Hybrids emit significantly lower CO_2 emissions and deliver higher miles per gallon compared to most Gasoline-Powered Vehicles (GPVs).

Explore More at hybridcars.com.

Electric Vehicles (EVs)

Tired of paying big bucks for gasoline? The power to spark Electric Vehicles (EVs) with 100- to 200-mile driving ranges is way cheaper than driving Gasoline-Powered Vehicles (GPVs). If you're ready to cash in, rev up air quality and adopt new fill-up routines, check out these stats.

- Compare the cost of driving a 100-mile trip in a GPV that gets 25mpg to an EV that gets the equivalent of 99mpg. At $3.50 per gallon, the cost of gas for the trip in a GPV would be $14. At 11.5¢ per kilowatt-hour, the cost of electricity for the same trip in an EV would be $3.40.
- On average, EVs are 97% cleaner on the air than GPVs – factoring in pollution from plants supplying their electricity.
- EVs take 4-8 hours to fill up at a charging station or at home. To date Pittsburg offers 3 charging stations: 2 at City Hall (free) and 1 downtown ($2.00 per session as of 3/12).

Explore More current plug-in stations and other resources at pluginamerica.org.

Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles (CNGVs).

Although natural gas is a non-renewable fossil fuel, it could be an affordable bridge to a renewable energy future.

- CNGVs store and fill up on fuel similar to Gasoline-Powered Vehicles (GPVs).
- CNGVs emit 70% less CO_2 compared to GPVs, exceeding California standards for ultra-low and super-low emission vehicles.
- Natural gas costs about 1/3 less than oil-derived gas for comparable vehicles.
- CNGVs expected on the market in 2012 range from compact autos through full-size pickups.
- To date, there are 2 public natural gas stations in Concord and 7 within 25 miles of Pittsburg.

Explore More current CNGV stations and other resources at ngvc.org.

Biodiesel Vehicles (BVs)

Feed your car a healthier diet and fatten your thinning wallet – while reducing air pollution. These facts may empower diesel owners to just say "no" to 100% diesel fuel.

- BVs can run on affordable 100% renewable diesel fuel derived from vegetable oils, animal fats, and/or recycled restaurant grease – or a blend of renewable & non-renewable petroleum.
- How much less CO_2 would enter the air by switching your diesel from 100% non-renewable petroleum-based fuel to cleaner alternatives? Switching to B20 blend (20% biodiesel & 80% petroleum) would reduce CO_2 emissions by 11%. Switching to 100% renewable diesel fuel would reduce CO_2 emissions by 75%.
- Diesel vehicles manufactured after 1993 need no modifications to switch to biodiesel blend B20.

Explore More at biodiesel.org.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles (HFCVs)

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, which produce zero harmful emissions, have a promising future. Take a dip into the following information about this emerging technology.

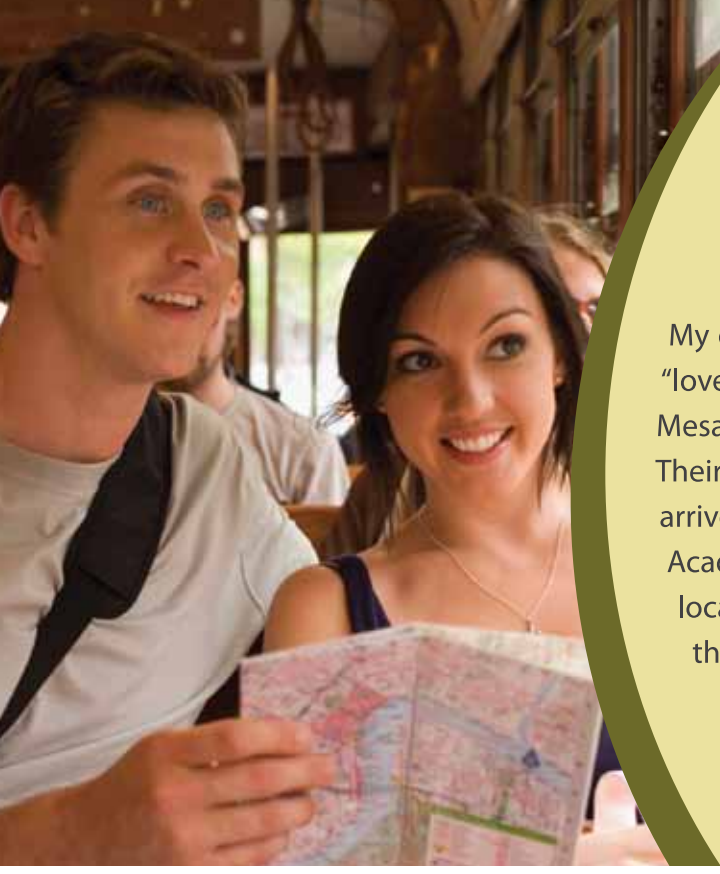
- Every component of HFCVs can be made in the U.S.A. using our own natural gas, coal, solar, wind, and/or nuclear resources.
- To date HFCVs are not commercially available. However, several prototypes exist worldwide with fueling stations already in place in U.S. test locations including California.

Explore More at hydrogencarsnow.com.

new technologies vs. gas

How Much Could You Save?

Compare operating costs and environmental impacts of traditional gas powered vs. alternative fuel vehicles at fueleconomy.gov.



train carpool walk bus ferry bike

Better Ways To Get There

My daughter Caitlyn brought Ryan home over spring break to meet the family. It was "love at first sight" when they met in the Environmental Science program at Colorado Mesa University. Caitlyn – queen of tourism – planned Ryan's first trip to San Francisco. Their tour began at the bus stop near us – then continued to BART and SF Muni – to arrive at Golden Gate Park – where the lovebirds rented bikes to visit the California Academy of Science museum. On the trip back to Colorado, they started again at our local bus stop and made a couple of transfers to board the Amtrak train in Martinez that arrived the next day in Grand Junction – an easy walk to their campus.

It's easier than you think to travel using your feet, a bike, public transit or a carpool. Every time you choose one of the following options for travel, you set an example to others that there are better ways to get there.

fast forward

walk, bike or ride share

Walking & Biking

Fire up human fuel for free whenever you can safely walk or bike – instead of using public transportation or driving. Tie up your sensible shoes, dress for the weather and venture into the great outdoors – keeping these facts and resources in mind.

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that kids who walk to school have improved academic performance, better self-image, more independence and are more likely to remain active and healthy as adults.
- According to AAA operating an auto costs about $7,800 a year. Whereas operating a bicycle costs about $120 a year – with zero fuel cost and environmental damage.
- To help you plan bike travel, stop by Bay Area Bikes in town to pick up the City of Pittsburg bike map that includes current bike paths, bike-friendly streets, shopping centers and more. Explore **511contracosta.org** to map your own bike route.
- Use bike racks, turtles and bike lockers (**bikelink.org**) in convenient locations around town.
- Join a biking club such as **deltaped.org** to enjoy group outings around the East Bay.

Public Transportation

If you're determined to save money on transportation and reduce air emissions, consider switching to the public transit network available in Pittsburg and beyond. If you own more than one vehicle, consider downsizing to one – or becoming the proud owner of "no" vehicle.

- Instead of driving in stressful traffic, become a public transit passenger with the freedom to work, text, study, read, enjoy a hobby – or just wind down.
- The American Public Transportation Association reports U.S. households could save $10,000 yearly by switching to public transit. The increased use of public transit conserves about 4.2 billion gallons of gas yearly in the U.S.
- Pittsburg Transit & Transfer Options:
  Tri Delta Transit at **trideltatransit.com.**
  BART at **bart.gov.**
  Amtrak-Capitol Corridor at **amtrak.com** or **capitolcorridor.org.**
  Altamont Commuter Express at **acerail.com.**
  Caltrain at **caltrain.com.**
- Bay Area Ferry Services:
  San Francisco Bay Ferry (between SF, Oakland and Alameda) at **eastbayferry.com.**
  Golden Gate Ferry (SF-Larkspur, SF-Sausalito, Larkspur-Giants games special service) at **goldengateferry.org.**
  Bay Link Ferry (between Vallejo and SF) at **baylinkferry.com.**

Explore More creative routes at 511.org.

Carpooling

When walking, biking or public transit are not feasible, consider carpooling as a positive step for your budget and the environment. The benefits outweigh the extra expense and air emissions of driving solo.

- Two or more people sharing the ride and expenses in one vehicle are entitled to use HOV lanes during peak traffic periods.
- Beyond carpooling for work and school, you can form carpools and share driving expenses whenever two or more people have the same or similar schedule and destination.
- Start or join an existing carpool – with or without your own vehicle to share. Contact people who may be able to help or browse internet services that match up riders with similar commutes or travel routes.
- Carpool and share gas costs for social and business activities to reduce the number of vehicles traveling to the same destination.
- Set up an errand network of family, friends and neighbors – who may need pickup & delivery assistance and/or want to drive or ride along to shared destinations. Map errand routes to get the best miles per gallon and share the gas expense.

Explore More at rideshare.511.org.

Localization

When you make it a priority to shop, dine, play and use services in Pittsburg, you support more than the City's economy and local jobs. Your "localization" habits also eliminate the extra expense of shipping online purchases and buying goods and services outside the community that are available right here.

- Find local businesses and Historic Downtown information at **oldtownpittsburgca.com** and on Facebook.
- Browse the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce at **pittsburgchamber.org.**
- Learn more about localizing for a better quality of life in "sustainable" or "walkable" communities – where everything that sustains your lifestyle and the environment is in walking distance from your front door.

Explore More at walkable.org.

Beyond keeping your heart strong, biking gives you a youthful outlook on life.

recycle. it's in your hands.

The Waste Challenge

At a family picnic, I learned a lot from my nephew Rafe and his Dad. Holding up the remains of a sandwich, Rafe asked, "Know what I'm going to do with this?" Answering with my wise uncle voice, "You'll throw it in the trash bin." Rafe rolled his eyes, **"No way! I'm going to save it and feed it to our compost bin at home!"** More wisdom from Dad, "Tomorrow let's walk to the Library and visit the Green Zone. We'll get the facts on how the air, water, soil and climate get hurt from food we eat, other stuff we buy and garbage we don't recycle. Then we'll figure our what we can do at home to stop wasteful habits that cost a lot and hurt the planet."

If you decide to **cut back on waste and recycle more**, you'll save more than money. Your efforts will help to reduce factory emissions while protecting U.S. manufacturing jobs and conserve natural resources while reducing landfill waste.

re-think waste

build a better world

Reduce

Less is more.

- Don't buy or use more than you need. Think twice when tempted to buy a new product or upgrade an existing one.
- Before you replace anything old or faulty, ask yourself, "Is it worth fixing or can it last a bit longer?"
- When you do buy, check out second-hand merchandise or select new products that use less raw or recycled materials and retail packaging.
- Recycle more at home by following guidelines from Pittsburg Disposal, which may enable curbside customers to downsize garbage toters and reduce monthly trash bills (**pittsburgdisposal.com**).
- To stop junk mail deliveries at your residence, contact BayROC at **StopJunkMail.org** or call (877) 786-7927. Your efforts will help rescue some of the nearly 100 million trees cut down in the U.S. every year to produce junk mail.

Explore More at wastediversion.org.

Reuse

Use up what you already have.

- Give a second life to used items before recycling or trashing them. Think of ways you can reuse glass jars and bottles to store and seal food, hardware, craft supplies, etc. Imagine how anything you're about to part with could have another use.
- Grab reusable totes, cardboard boxes or used retail bags whenever you shop or carry anything. At City Hall, pick up a free recycled tote while supplies last. Call (925) 252-4129.
- "Re-gift" gently used items you no longer use to others who would appreciate them.
- Donate clothes, shoes, house wares, etc. to thrift stores – and bring your shopping list along. Patronize Goodwill, Salvation Army and SPCA Thrift – or causes such as One Warm Coat (**onewarmcoat.org**) and Lion's Center for the Blind (**lbcenter.org**).
- Use the upscale resale market by taking your gently used items to exchange them for cash or shopping credits.

Explore More at epa.gov/osw and nrdc.org.

Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

Take your household hazardous waste to the right place!
Visit **ddsd.org** for a list of accepted items.

Take home FREE reusable household products! Visit the Reuse Room.

Recycle

What goes around comes around.

- Before you toss out any non-hazardous item, visit **earth911.com** for recycling options – using the landfill as a last resort.
- Curbside customers may call (925) 432-6262 for pickup and recycling of non-auto batteries, cell phones, fluorescent lights and oil.
- Mt. Diablo Recycling Center in Pittsburg offers buy-back services for aluminum, glass and cardboard. Visit **mtdiablorecycling.com.**

Explore More at reuserecycle.net.

Compost & Grasscycle

Support nature's way.

- When mowing, practice "grasscycling" by leaving clippings on the lawn. It greens up your lawn with a natural free fertilizer. Plus it helps the planet – since 27% of landfill trash is compostable material that emits highly combustible methane into the air – which contributes to "the greenhouse effect" linked to climate temperature changes.
- Curbside customers who compost create free fertilizer and gardening soil. As a result, they may be entitled to smaller garbage carts and reduced rates.
- Take advantage of free local composting workshops. Find details at **ci.pittsburg.ca.us** (under City Services/Environmental Affairs).

Explore More at calrecycle.ca.gov/organics.

Make use of great green local resources!

The City of Pittsburg is committed to educating citizens about environmental issues that affect quality of life for everyone in our community. Take advantage of the extensive information and resources at **ci.pittsburg.ca.us.** Under **City Services/PublicWorks** go to Environmental Affairs – then check us out on **facebook.com/PittsburgLivinGreen**.

Make use of our library system's impressive collection of local and global resources in the Green Zone (**guides.ccclib.org/greenzone**). And all students in our public schools have access to classroom workshops and recycle center tours through Pittsburg Disposal Services (**pittsburgdisposal.com**).

grants
rebates
incentives

The Power of Lifetime Decisions

The time is ripe to plug into renewable energy with many generous programs available – from grants, rebates and tax incentives to affordable financing. This makes the cost of switching to renewable energy a more intelligent investment than ever before. Understanding **solar, geothermal and small wind turbine systems** can help you evaluate if one of these technologies would achieve long-term goals – such as reducing energy costs, increasing property values and conserving natural resources.

Your first step is to learn as much as possible – start at **energy.ca.gov/renewables** or (800) 555-7794. **Your next step is to obtain an energy audit** and cost estimate for your property requirements – start at **pge.com/myhome** (Energy Upgrade California) or (800) 743-5000. These steps along with the following resources and information should prepare you to make smart decisions about long-term energy solutions that meet your goals. There's no better time to make lifetime decisions about how you want to power your own lifestyle and establish a legacy of environmental responsibility.

plug into
renewable energy

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems

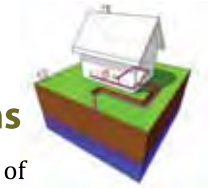
- When sunlight hits solar PV cells or panels on rooftops, direct current flows through an inverter and converts to electricity – which flows directly into the home when any electrical device requires power.
- When PV cells collect excess electricity, it flows back to the PG&E grid or backup batteries for storage and redistribution.
- Typical PV systems connected to the PG&E grid cost about $15,000 up front after all state and federal incentives and tax credits.
- On average, the return on investment should occur in less than 10 years – and may double over a system's life expectancy of 25+ years. To lower initial costs, residents can buy PV materials from local hardware stores and do their own installation – and explore grid leasing plans that may require a much lower up-front investment.
- PG&E provides grid users a credit on monthly electric bills when they consume less electricity than generated.
- On average, PV systems that include heating water could reduce utility bills 25-50%.

Smaller Solar Solutions

- Invest in the growing variety of solar-powered products such as outdoor lights, electronics and camping gear.
- Install self-contained solar systems that control temperatures of traditional and on-demand/tankless water heaters, hot tubs and swimming pools. See Water Heating section on page 5.

Explore More at gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov.

Geothermal Heat Pump (GHP) Systems



- GHP systems take advantage of a nearly constant 50-60° temperature in the top 10 feet of the Earth. This temperature range is warmer than the air above it in winter and cooler in summer.
- Systems have three parts: ground heat exchanger, heat pump unit and air delivery ductwork. The heat exchanger consists of pipes called a loop, which are buried in shallow ground near the home. Water and/or antifreeze circulate through the loop to absorb or relinquish ground heat.
- Underground piping often carries warranties of 25-50 years – and heat pumps are expected to last 20+ years.
- GHP systems require substantially less electricity than traditional utility service. In winter they remove heat from the heat exchanger and pump it into the indoor air delivery system. In summer the heat pump moves heat from the indoor air into the heat exchanger to provide free water heating. GHP systems maintain an approximate 50% relative indoor humidity year round.
- For exiting homes, a typical GHP system investment in the PG&E grid is in the $5,000 range – in addition to the cost of drilling – which could run from $10,000 to $30,000. Through savings on utility bills, the expected return on investment is 2-10 years. Expected annual energy savings are 30-60%.

Explore More at nrel.gov/geothermal.

Small Wind Turbines

- Small wind turbines use the wind to produce clean, emissions-free power to rural properties as small as one acre.
- On average, a typical U.S. home requires a small turbine with a 5-kilowatt (kW) generating capacity to meet all its electricity needs (about 18 feet diameter).
- The average height of a traditional small wind turbine of any capacity is 80 feet with a 30- to 140-foot overall range. However "designer" and vertical blade wind turbines range in size and artistic freedom.
- On-grid turbines receive electricity from PG&E when wind does not blow sufficiently. Excess energy produced by wind turbines goes back to the PG&E grid for redistribution.
- For a typical home, the investment in an on-grid wind turbine system is $35,000 to $50,000.
- The return on investment could take 6-30 years depending on the turbine, quality of wind, prevailing electricity rates and available financing and incentives.

Explore More at windustry.org.

Wind Powered America

In the past decade, U.S. wind capacity has grown 20-30% per year. Despite this growth, only 1% of total electricity consumption nationwide is wind powered. Yet our nation's abundant land-based and offshore wind resources are sufficient to supply the electrical energy needs of the entire country several times over. The Midwest region from Texas to North Dakota is particularly rich in wind resources. California ranks number three in the U.S. for wind generation of electricity – with more than 13,000 wind turbines on three primary wind farms.

The affordability, ample resources and clean technology of renewable wind power could be a long-term solution for cutting back U.S. dependency on fossil fuel – and be a benchmark for global sustainability in decades to come.

apps websites books

Continue The Challenge!

Today, there's no question about how frail and polluted our planet has become. But the most important question remains. What can you do to help Planet Earth sustain your life along with the lives of seven billion other inhabitants? The answer is to **continue the Blue Marble Challenge** – by using recommendations throughout this guide to conserve energy, protect natural resources and reduce waste.

Every time you conserve and reduce, you'll score more than cost-of-living relief in your corner of the world. Using Neil Armstrong's words after the moon landing, your efforts will score ***"One small step for man – one giant leap for mankind."*** To help you continue the challenge, explore more on these last pages and keep this guide handy.

keep up with sustainable resources

Take down energy costs

- Grants and Financial Assistance: Residential Energy Retrofit Program at **chfloans.org** or (855)740-8422.
- CSD Energy Assistance Programs: **csd.ca.gov/Programs** or (866) 675-6623.
- Energy Upgrade California at **energyupgradeca.org**.
- Energy Saving Products at local hardware stores: electrical monitors that measure power used by electrical devices, thermal leak detectors, remote controlled electricity monitors and more.

Drive smarter with alternative fuels

- U.S. DOE Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center at **afdc.energy.gov**.
- Map of electric vehicle charging stations at **recargo.com**.
- Natural Gas Vehicles for America at **naturalgas.org.**
- National Renewables Laboratory Research (for hydrogen vehicles) at **nrel.gov/hydrogen**.
- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy at **greencars.org**.

Fast forward
walk, bike or ride share

- Walking & Biking: **caactivecommunities.org/htn, ebbc.org, bicyclinginfo.org** and **bayareabikes.com.**
- Localization: Walkable and Livable Communities Institute at **walklive.org.**

  American Public Transportation Association at **apta.com.**

Re-think waste
build a better world

- New site for where to recycle anything: **recyclewhere.org.**
- Composting at **epa.gov/compost.**
- Used motor oil recycling at **funnelhead.com.**

Plug into
renewable energy

- Database of state incentives at **dsireusa.org.**
- Wind: **energy.ca.gov/wind** and **allsmallwindturbines.com.**
- Solar: **pge.com/csi**, **energyupgradeca.org** and **norcalsolar.org.**
- Geothermal: **energysavers.gov/renewable_energy/geothermal** and **energy.ca.gov/geothermal.**

Culture and eco-travel

- Contra Costa County Library cardholders are entitled to free or discounted admission to museums and cultural institutions through the Discover and Go! program (**guides.ccclib.org/discover**).
- When selecting your cultural destinations, arrive in eco-style via public transportation or a carpool. See pages 8-9 for better ways to get there.

Green apps galore

- Download free and discounted apps to help you save money and the planet by conserving energy and reducing waste.

Continue the challenge.

Keep exploring new resources to help our fragile planet sustain our futures.

explore much more!
at the Green Zone

When you're hungry for facts and fun related to sustaining Planet Earth, visit the Pittsburg Library's Green Zone. Whether you have an appetite for energy savings, waste reduction, composting, gardening or hearty eco-science – the Green Zone will satisfy your cravings. Check out the world-class menu of books, magazines and audio/visual materials whenever hunger strikes your imagination.

For more information:
Explore **guides.ccclib.org/greenzone**

Call (925) 427-8390
Text "ccc" and questions to 66746

Visit us in person at 80 Power Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Greenzone
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

Library hours:
Sun. & Mon. – Closed
Tues. noon-8pm
Wed. 10am-6pm
Thurs. 1pm – 8pm
Fri. & Sat. 11am – 5pm

We realize the Earth is the only natural home for man we know of, and that we had better protect it.

~ James Erwin, U.S. Astronaut

Act now.

This project receives funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, which is helping local communities to develop, promote and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. More information about the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program is available at www.eere.energy.gov/wip/eecbg.html.

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NASA and The Blue Marble at earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/BlueMarble.