



EARTH HOUR

**MARCH 28 | 8:30-9:30 PM**

Learn more ways to take your sustainability efforts beyond Earth Hour, by visiting  
[www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

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# 27 Ways to Celebrate Earth Hour

Be a part of the global community's will to protect the planet we share.

So, how can you observe Earth? Here are 27 ways to observe Earth Hour and make a bigger difference in the environment.

1. **Turn off your lights:** This is an easy one because that is what Earth Hour is all about.
2. **Unplug your electronics:** Earth Hour is not just about turning of lights in your home, it is also about energy conservation. Unplugging your electronics is a good way to conserve energy in your home.
3. **Turn off the television:** When was the last time your family and you sat around with candles, just talking, playing a game, or reading? The television uses energy, so turn it off for the hour and discover the art of communication and reading again.
4. **Replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs:** CFL bulbs not only use about one-fifth of the energy that a typical incandescent light does, they also last up to ten times as long.
5. **Turn off the porch lights:** Some homeowners only turn off the lights inside their house, while leaving their porch light on. For Earth Hour, how about turning off that light too?
6. **Turn off the computers:** Just like the television, computers draw power and if you are not using them, why not turn them off for that hour to help conserve energy?
7. **Talk to your neighbors:** Last year, while our lights were off, several of our neighbors still had their lights on. A good way to observe Earth Hour is to talk to your neighbors and ask them to turn off their lights for Earth Hour. You can make it a block-wide initiative that serves as an example to the rest of your community.
8. **Go for a walk:** With all the lights off in your neighborhood, going for a walk can be a great experience. With less lights, especially in a small community, you will see more of the stars. As well, you will develop a greater appreciation for the outdoors and realize the affect light pollution has.
9. **Eat a cold dinner:** It takes energy to make a hot meal, and that energy means carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. During Earth Hour, why not make a cold meal of salad, sandwiches and more. One cold meal a week with your family can greatly reduce the amount of a carbon footprint that you have.
10. **Turn off the heat or air conditioning:** Earth Hour, as we have said, is about energy conservation. Heating and cooling a home is the third largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world, so why not turn off the air conditioning or heating during Earth Hour? It is only for one hour, so your house won't get that cold or hot.
11. **Create an energy conservation schedule:** With your family during Earth Hour, try and create a schedule that will allow you to reduce energy. Scheduling a

cold dinner, allocating one hour a week to having everything off, and more can help you reduce your carbon footprint, and help get your family involved in the process as well.

12. **Don't drive:** During Earth Hour, the desire to go out and get something to eat or do something may be strong. However, by driving your [car](#) during Earth Hour, you are negating the very carbon dioxide emissions that you are reducing back home with the lights off.
13. **Have a camp fire:** The emissions from a camp fire will be very small, so you are not negating what you have done with the lights in your home. Plus, having the family sit around a camp fire can be a lot of fun and you may notice you are out there even after Earth Hour has passed.
14. **Gather up your recycling:** During Earth Hour, help conserve energy by gathering up everything that can be recycled so you can take it to the [recycle](#) depot the next day. Recycling saves thousands of tons of carbon dioxide every day, so it is important that we all recycle whatever we can to help the planet and to reduce our carbon footprint.
15. **Install solar panels:** Solar energy is free, plentiful and effective. The sun releases more energy in a year, than our civilization could use in a thousand years. Putting a [solar panel](#) in, while expensive at first, will save you money in the long run. If you can't put in a solar panel, they you could just install some solar lights outside in the yard rather than using electric lights to illuminate the backyard.
16. **Turn off the ceiling fans:** While ceiling fans are great at cooling down rooms, or even warming them up, during Earth Hour you can conserve the energy and turn off the ceiling fans.
17. **Make tea on the stove:** If you need to make tea then instead of using your plug in kettle, you can use the stove (if possible). Heating up a kettle on the stove will use one-third the energy that a plug in kettle does.
18. **Make the commitment to always wash clothes in cold water:** About 80 to 90 percent of the energy that is needed for washing clothes comes from warming up the water. To conserve the energy, in the spirit of Earth Hour, wash your clothes in cold water.
19. **Dry clothes on the line:** If possible, use Earth Hour to make the commitment to begin drying your clothes on the line, rather than drying them in the dryer, which uses a lot of energy to get those clothes dry. Using the line uses the power of the sun to dry your clothes. It is free, effective and clean.
20. **Find the leaks:** During Earth Hour, take a candle and go around to all the windows and doors in your home. If the candle flickers when you are standing next to a window, it means that there is a leak. Take some caulking and seal up that leak. By sealing leaks in your home, you can greatly reduce the amount of energy that is lost in heating it.
21. **Unplug the chargers:** During Earth Hour, make sure you have not only unplugged all your electronics as we mentioned, but unplug the chargers for your cell phones. Even if your cell phone is charged, the charger is still drawing

power. If you just have the charger connected to the wall with no cell phone attached, it is also still using energy.

22. **Go Energy Star:** During Earth Hour, you should make the commitment to replace your old appliances with Energy Star appliances. Energy Star appliances use a fraction of the energy that older appliances do and will save you money in the long run. Make sure you recycle your other appliances properly if you replace them.
23. **Use the dishwasher:** If you are going to do dishes during Earth Hour, you can use the dishwasher. Many people find this odd but an energy efficient dishwasher not only use half the energy and one-sixth the water than washing dishes by hand.
24. **Purchase Carbon Offsets:** During Earth Hour, calculate how much energy you use and then buy carbon offsets. Carbon offsets mean that you have given money to something that either plants trees, or invests in green energy. That way, the energy you do use is offset so you are at zero for your carbon emissions. Don't use this as a catch-all though.
25. **Fix the leaks:** Go around your home during Earth Hour and look for any leaking taps. Dripping taps waste 9,000 liters of water each year. Being energy conserving means you also need to conserve water. This is what Earth Hour is all about.
26. **Plant a tree:** Possibly one of the easiest, and best things you can do for your environment is planting a tree. The planting of a tree not only brightens up an area and provides a habitat, it also removes carbon dioxide from the air and replaces it with oxygen.
27. **Set the fridge temperature:** Set your fridge temperature to between two and five degrees Celsius. Have your freezer set to between minus fifteen and minus seventeen Celsius. Also, make sure the door of the fridge closes tightly. If you can put a five dollar bill in the door and pull it out when the fridge is closed, then energy is leaking out.