

# MAKE YOUR OWN IMPACT



A **C3 Guide** to local climate action

# Welcome!

Thanks for picking up the **Make Your Own Impact** guidebook! When it comes to climate action, it's hard to know where to begin. We've put together a targeted set of actions and curated easy and reliable online resources so that you can start making a difference in our community and your own life.

Best of all, when you join our online community of impact makers (Circle), you won't be alone. You'll have plenty of help from friends, family, and the team of experts at C3. Your actions—big or small—do matter! By combining your actions with others, you will help to create the cleaner and more just community we all envision.

– C3 Team



## Let's Get Started

Living a more climate-friendly lifestyle can be simpler than you think, and we're here to show you how! We've provided many avenues for making positive, lasting change. These actions are focused on energy and transportation and can be done in any order. When you join the free online community, you'll have access to local business discounts, relevant events, fun meetups, Q and A, and more.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to one of our team members. We're here to help.

Let's get started! Together we can **Learn It,** **Voice It,** **Do It.**

# LEARN IT!

*“One of the biggest obstacles to making a start on climate change is that it has become a cliché before it has even been understood.”*

TIM FLANNERY

Though we don't intend to harm, human activity contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that are harmful to the environment and jeopardize our health. The good news is that there are plenty of things we can do to protect our planet and secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Our “LEARN IT!” chapter helps you take stock of your current carbon footprint. The best way to begin is to assess where you are currently and identify opportunities for improvement.



## Home Energy

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- Fill out Conservation.org's easy carbon footprint calculator to determine your current environmental impact.
- Expand your knowledge of energy burden by completing C3's Energy Burden Calculator.
- Fill out C3's DIY Energy Equipment Inventory.
- Research local, state, and federal financial incentives to see if you qualify for cost-saving programs.
- Obtain a home energy check-up from the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) to learn about the efficiency of your home.
- Research high-efficiency heat pumps, water heaters, and appliances for your future upgrade.
- Fill out Google's Project Sunroof tool to assess your viability of going solar.



## Transportation

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- Calculate your savings if you were to switch from your gas-fueled car to a hybrid or electric car.



## Food

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- Watch an educational film or video about the impact of our diet.



## Community

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- Explore C3's policy reports and recommendations for how we can advance climate action in our community.

# VOICE IT!

*“The strongest governments on earth cannot clean up pollution by themselves. They must rely on each ordinary person, like you and me, on our choices, and on our will.”*

CHAI JING

While we, as individuals, have a significant role to play in cutting our community’s greenhouse gas emissions, larger systems-level change achieved through policies must be done in parallel.

Our “VOICE IT!” chapter empowers you to educate local decision-makers about the importance of climate action and encourage them to advance equitable climate policy. Amplifying our collective voice is an important way to cultivate the political will needed to implement critical climate solutions.



## Community

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- Add your name to C3’s local advocacy efforts on climate.
- Send a letter (print or email) to Albemarle County or City of Charlottesville decision-makers to support bold climate action.
- Encourage your workplace, place of worship, or nonprofit to measure their carbon impact with C3’s help.
- Sign up to talk at City Council or Board of Supervisor meetings on climate-related or C3 issues.

# DO IT!

*“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*

JANE GOODALL

People, plants, and animals around the world are feeling the impacts of climate change. While the problems may seem insurmountable, the important thing to remember is it's not too late to confront climate change with bold and unified action.

Our “DO IT!” chapter provides a series of steps to significantly cut your household emissions. Your actions, taken together with the actions of others, will lead to a more sustainable future for our entire community. Start taking action and then share with others to inspire more action in our Circle online community!



## Home Energy

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- Create a personalized Climate Action Plan.
- Install smart home technology (i.e. smart thermostat, smart plugs, etc.).
- Weatherize and insulate your home to increase your energy efficiency.
- Switch to a high-efficiency heat pump, HVAC, water heater, or appliances.
- Install solar panels on your house.



## Transportation

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- Commit to commuting to work, carpooling, or riding the bus 1-3 times a week.
- Electrify your vehicle! Buy or lease a hybrid or electric car or electric bike.



## Food

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- Purchase food from local sources to support our local food systems. \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Eat a plant-rich diet. \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Compost your food waste.



## Community

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- Help C3 grow our MYOI community by making a financial contribution.
- Join C3 or local government committee as a volunteer.



**Ready to Start?** No matter where you are in your journey, C3 is here to help you. Join our Make Your Own Impact community on Circle to take advantage of over a dozen ready-made resources, discounts from local businesses, and support from your fellow changemakers. Together we can make a positive impact starting right here at home.

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## **COMMUNITY CLIMATE** COLLABORATIVE

**The Community Climate Collaborative** was founded in 2017 with a mission of bringing communities together to lead on climate. We believe that the power to confront climate change begins right here at home. We catalyze local climate solutions through engagement programs and policy advocacy while enabling a just transition to a clean energy future.

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