

Take Climate Action - Here are a Few Suggestions:

Individual and Family Actions

Energy:

Install rooftop solar collectors

This may sound like a big expense but the cost of solar energy is dropping fast. You can finance an installation with lower monthly installments than your electricity bill. And a combination of incentives from the federal government and local utilities will pay approximately 40% of the cost. www.energysage.com

Invest in community solar projects

You can get all the benefits of solar panels without putting it on your own roof! The Oregon Clean Power Co-op lets you invest in a solar project in your community, instead of on your own roof. Great for both those who can't put up solar panels on their roof and for those who have. <http://oregoncleanpower.coop>

Install a Smart Thermostat

This is a relatively small investment that will save you money by reducing your energy use for heating and cooling. Thermostats are mission control for residential energy use—9 percent of energy consumption in the United States. At present, the majority of thermostats require manual operation or preset programming, and studies show people are notoriously unreliable in doing either efficiently. Smart thermostats eliminate the capriciousness of human behavior, thereby driving more predictable energy savings. www.cnet.com/news/smart-thermostat-roundup

Transportation:

Take a train instead of a car or an airplane, for your next trip of 50 miles or more. Long-distance bus is also very efficient. There are several options between Portland and Seattle. Do you really want to drive and get stuck in I-5 traffic?

www.amtrak.com www.boltbus.com

Consider an Electric Vehicle (EV) the next time you buy a car

Compared to gasoline-powered vehicles, emissions drop by 50 percent if an EV's power comes off the conventional grid. If powered by solar energy, carbon dioxide emissions fall by 95 percent. The "fuel" for electric cars is cheaper too. EVs will disrupt auto and oil business models because they are simpler to make, have fewer moving parts, and require little maintenance and no fossil fuels.

The issue of "range anxiety" is diminishing. By the time you are ready to buy, the range of an affordable EV may be acceptable for your needs.

www.goelectric.oregon.gov/why-evs

Food:

Reducing food waste at home

Hone your meal planning skills; reduce energy, water, and other inputs needed to produce the food. Unavoidable waste should be composted. This will save your family money and help to keep food out of landfills. Here's the lowdown on the difference between Havurah's green bin and your residential bin and reasons for cutting food waste:

www.oregonzoo.org/conserve/small-actions/waste-less-food-home
www.portlandoregon.gov/sustainabilityatwork/article/536026

Composting

Nearly half of the solid waste produced globally is organic or biodegradable. Much of it ends up in landfills where it produces the greenhouse gas methane, which is up to 34 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a century. Use your city compost bins or start back yard composting to use on your vegetable garden. www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

Eat more plant-based foods

No, you don't have to become a vegetarian, but eating less meat helps to reduce climate change. Meat production comes with a steep climate price tag: one-fifth of global emissions. If cattle were their own nation, they would be the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Plant-rich diets also tend to be healthier, leading to lower rates of chronic disease. <https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/new-research-says-plant-based-diet-best-for-planet-and-people>

Water:

Save water at home

Using water at home—to shower, do laundry, soak plants—consumes energy. It takes energy to clean and transport water, to heat it if need be, and to handle wastewater after use. Hot water is responsible for a quarter of residential energy use worldwide. Efficiency can be improved household-by-household and tap-by-tap. Install water saving shower heads and faucets. www.forbes.com/sites/houzz/2015/03/31/11-ways-to-save-water-at-home/#721c9d88166c

A Slew of Activities That Can Be Done With Children Of All Ages:

Read: [The Parents' Guide to Climate Revolution: 100 Ways to Build a Fossil-Free Future, Raise Empowered Kids, and Still Get a Good Night's Sleep](#) by Mary DeMocker. A wonderful resource for age appropriate actions you can take with your children, that will fit into your schedule, and make a difference.

Events and Actions at Havurah and Beyond:

Attend a Havurah Meeting From the Comforts of Home

Havurah has a Zoom account that allows you to meet with others using your computer, where everyone can see each other, or phone. It's like being there in person, except you can't share food!

Attend Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT) Events

- First three Thursday evenings of Nov. and Dec. 7-9pm, Climate Action Study Group. An in depth read of EcoMind, on how we can change our thinking and behaviors to solve our climate crisis in ways that lead to greater justice for all. For more details and to sign up: www.havurahshalom.org
- Feb. 9, Tu B'shevat Seder with teachings on the vital place of forest restoration for reversing global warming
- April 19, 10-2, Earth day and Havurah Climate Action Fair
- Monthly HCAT meetings. Check the Havurah calendar for details, days and times vary.

Take Political Action with Havurah Members

"Lifestyle changes" will help in the battle to reduce climate change. However, we need legislative, regulatory, and policy changes at the federal, state, and local level to institute large-scale changes that most people cannot contribute to directly. **Our legislatures have told us they want to hear from us, even when they agree with us. We are the wind in their sails.**

- Contact your elected officials to weigh in on changes that can have a broad scale impact. Find your representatives: www.usa.gov/elected-officials
- Write, call, and join actions, marches, rallies that support the New Green Deal and other proposals that can have a major impact on the climate emergency. Havurah is planning trips to Salem, and offices of Oregon US Senators and Representatives to demand action on the climate emergency.
- Join Havurah's climate action email list to be apprised of actions to take at home or with others. Contact Steve Birkel, sjbirkel@gmail.com, to be added to the list.

Join HCAT members as they participate with other Climate Action Groups:

Steve Birkel: 350pdx

Work to resist fossil fuel expansion in our region, and take part in other local and state actions. This grassroots organization address the causes of climate disruption through justice-based solutions by inspiring, training and mobilizing people to act. <https://350pdx.org>

Elianne Lieberman: Citizen's Climate Lobby

Work in a bipartisan, respectful manner to help Congress to pass The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) which will drive down America's carbon pollution and bring climate change under control, while unleashing American Technology innovation and ingenuity. www.citizensclimatelobby.org

Jan Zuckerman: Extinction Rebellion

Take action to demand the truth about climate catastrophe be told, and functional just solutions be implemented, including demanding Portland establish an accountable action timeline for reaching net zero emissions by 2025. www.xrpdx.org

Michael Heumann: Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)

PCEF is Oregon's first ever environmental initiative created and led by communities of color. This project will develop living wage jobs, sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure, and residential and commercial renewable and efficiency projects in the Portland area. www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/78729

Andy Beers: Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good (MACG)

The MACG Climate Change and Environmental Justice Research Action Team is developing a campaign to take on major polluters that are impacting the health and environment of neighborhoods in the Portland metro area. <http://www.macg.org>

Harriet Cooke: 350pdx Green New Deal Committee

Help explore, develop and advocate for a comprehensive Oregon Green New Deal. <https://350pdx.org/campaigns/green-new-deal>

Jeff Gottfried: Carbon Offsets

Remove your entire annual carbon dioxide footprint from the atmosphere when you donate to the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. Low-income youth plant trees and work to gain marketable skills, personal growth, and a high school diploma. Contact jeff@gottfried.net

Adele Thompson: Center for Sustainable Economy

Works with Climate Action Coalition to provide technical and advocacy support in opposition to fossil fuel export projects in Oregon. <https://sustainable-economy.org>

Steve Katz: North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC)

NCLC's mission is to help to conserve Oregon's coastal lands. Their vision is to provide a functioning coastal landscape where healthy communities of people, plants and wildlife all thrive. <https://nclctrust.org>

Karen Westerman: Backyard Habitat Certification

Create a natural, low-maintenance garden that support people, wildlife, and the planet, with assistance from The Portland Audubon Society. <https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/backyard-habitat-certification-program>