

TIPS FOR CLIMATE CHANGEMAKERS

The Theme for August is Transportation

Friday, August 4 - Transportation Changemaker Tips

Transportation is the greatest source of carbon emissions in the United States. Every gallon of gas burned in our vehicles adds 20 pounds of CO₂ to the atmosphere. We drive to work, schools, grocery stores, doctors' offices, large shopping centers, etc. In 2020, 34 percent of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in Lincoln were due to transportation. The auto-reliant infrastructure in Lincoln, combined with the fact that most cars are combustion engine vehicles, means that GHG emissions from the transportation sector will be challenging to reduce. What can/should we as individuals, families, churches do to reduce GHG emissions?

Each family should discuss transportation needs and rethink their habits. Small changes in behavior can reduce your costs and reduce GHG emissions.

- Eco driving means using a 'feather foot' on the gas and keeping a greater distance between you and the cars ahead of you. This steady pace is safer and allows less wasted energy from repeated braking and acceleration and can reduce carbon emissions by 25 to 30%.
- Don't idle cars waiting for passengers to arrive. [Examples: parents waiting for children at school; drivers waiting for others to share a ride; etc.]
- Choose the most environmentally friendly way to get to your intended destinations. Opt for Active Transportation. [Can you walk? Can you bike? Can you share a ride?]
- Avoid unnecessary air travel.

Friday, August 11 - Transportation Changemaker Tips

To consume less gasoline, consider a driving moratorium, a self-prohibition from driving anywhere on a selected date, perhaps one day or one half-day each week.

- Make sure your vehicle is properly serviced and the tires are properly inflated for maximum fuel efficiency. Remember to practice eco driving.
- There are many 'driving' errands that could be combined into a series of stops on a planned route, rather than making 3-4 separate trips. The savings depend on how well-planned your route is.

- Use public transportation, when possible. Check out the StarTran bus system.
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/StarTran>

Friday, August 18 - Transportation Changemaker Tips

When it is time to retire a vehicle, replace it with a hybrid or electric vehicle.

- Learn about the climate benefits of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids.
- When selecting a vehicle to purchase, make sure you consider financial incentives available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

[Investing in America](#): A White House website includes the following:

[New Consumer Resources for Purchasing an Electric Vehicle](#), updated 4/2023

- FuelEconomy.gov now integrates the new list of eligible clean vehicles into its [tax center tool](#). The tool will continue to be updated promptly as new information from manufacturers is submitted and additional vehicles become eligible.
- The Department of Energy (DOE) has published an [Energy Saver webpage](#) describing the new and previously owned clean vehicle tax credits, including a [checklist](#) to determine if a vehicle is eligible for either credit.
- The White House has announced [35 new commitments](#) from the public and private sectors and nonprofit organizations to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) adoption and provide new tools, resources, and education for EV consumers.

Friday, August 25 - Transportation Changemaker Tips

The Changemaker Theme for August is Transportation. The ‘tips’ this month have focused on both **how often** we travel and **how** we travel. But we need to consider the effects of transportation on GHG emissions more broadly. For example, 90% of Lincoln’s food comes from outside Nebraska. When **local** food production increases, the number of miles traveled to transport food from out-of-state will decrease.

- Buy local, in-season foods. Fresh produce often travels a long way to get to Lincoln grocery stores. So, purchasing local foods that are in season (or growing your own) eliminates transportation emissions.
- Shop at one of Lincoln’s Farmers Markets.
- Read Lincoln’s new Local Food System Plan.

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/files/sharedassets/public/projects-programs-amp-initiatives/resilient-lincoln/documents/local-food-system-plan.pdf>

Lincoln is leading the way in showing how a city can address climate change and build a more resilient future for residents and businesses. Refer to Lincoln’s “Vision for a Climate Smart Future” and the “2021-2027 Climate Action Plan” on the city website.

[<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Projects-Programs-Initiatives/Resilient-Lincoln>]

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/files/sharedassets/public/projects-programs-amp-initiatives/resilient-lincoln/documents/lincoln%E2%80%99s-vision-for-a-climate-smart-future.pdf>

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/files/sharedassets/public/projects-programs-amp-initiatives/resilient-lincoln/documents/climateactionplan.pdf>

Sunday Announcements for Climate Changemaker Tips

Sunday, August 6 – Discuss transportation needs with your family. Rethink your habits; find ways to reduce the miles you travel.

Sunday, August 13 – Consider a driving moratorium, a self-prohibition from driving anywhere on selected dates.

Sunday, August 20 – When it is time to retire a vehicle, replace it with a hybrid or an electric vehicle.

Sunday, August 27 – Ninety (90) % of Lincoln’s food comes from outside Nebraska. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by buying food at local farmers markets.