



This **Climate Toothpaste Activist Activator** letter describes local climate groups. Many folks are concerned about climate change, but feel overwhelmed. There are varied angles of approach to climate action—divestment, changing policy, and direct action, to name a few. This list suggests options, to help you find your perfect fit.

### Here's a text to introduce yourself:

*I'm concerned about climate change and want to help. I'm interested in your group. Can you tell me what your group does?*

## CALIFORNIA

### Electing Climate Hawk Candidates

#### Climate Hawks Vote [climatehawksvote.com](http://climatehawksvote.com)

This group seeks to elect aggressive, progressive champions of climate justice—climate hawks. Climate Hawks Vote is behind CA's 100% renewable energy bill from Senate candidate Kevin de León. The group is based in CA, and endorses and supports climate hawk candidates nationally.

### Direct Action

#### 350.org [350.org](http://350.org)

A global grassroots climate movement that holds leaders accountable to science and justice through grassroots organizing and mass public actions. 350 is also a huge proponent of fossil-fuel divestment. It has about 25 chapters in CA.

### Environmental + Social Justice

#### NextGen America [nextgenamerica.org](http://nextgenamerica.org)

NextGen works towards a clean energy economy, based on equality, inclusion, and sustainable prosperity. NextGen fights for immigrant rights and affordable health care. They register and turn out young voters in 11 states to elect leaders that work for us.

#### California Environmental Justice Alliance [www.caleja.org](http://www.caleja.org) [ceja@caleja.org](mailto:ceja@caleja.org)

Caleja works for environmental justice by advancing policy. It organizes members in communities most impacted by environmental hazards—low-income communities and communities of color. Caleja has offices in LA, Sacramento and Oakland.

### Fossil Fuel Cessation/Divestment

#### Fossil Free California [fossilfreeca.org](http://fossilfreeca.org)

Fossil Free California works to end financial support for climate-damaging fossil fuels and promote a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

#### Californians Against Fracking [californiansagainstracking.org](http://californiansagainstracking.org)

This is a coalition working for a statewide ban on fracking and other dangerous extraction in California.

### Conservation/Environment

#### Sierra Club [sierraclub.org/california](http://sierraclub.org/california)

Sierra Club's top California issues are climate change, drought and water management. We want to move away from dirty fossil fuels that cause climate disruption, toward a clean energy economy. Sierra Club has 12 chapters in CA.

**Some other CA groups:** Center for Climate Protection, Friends of the Earth, Center for Biological Diversity, Greenpeace in CA.

### Federal Carbon Pricing

#### Citizens Climate Lobby [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org)

Citizens Climate Lobby is trying to pass legislation for a national carbon fee and dividend. What's missing from climate change? Political will. CCL creates that political will by educating about climate change. CCL has 11 chapters in California.

### Climate Mobilization

#### The Climate Mobilization [theclimatemobilization.org](http://theclimatemobilization.org)

Climate change presents us each with a choice. Will we be passive as civilization slowly collapses around us? Or will we mobilize and fight back for a 100% clean energy future? TCM believes we need a WWII-scale national mobilization to fight climate change.

### Climate and Spirituality

#### California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL) [interfaithpower.org](http://interfaithpower.org)

CA Interfaith Power & Light responds to global warming through promotion of energy conservation, efficiency and renewables. This ministry intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy.

### Climate Advocates Save the World!

Climate Toothpaste boxes are printed in CA using wind power, renewable energy credits, and vegetable-based inks. The printer is certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Activist Activator letters for every state, and awesome stuff are at:

[climatetoothpaste.com](http://climatetoothpaste.com)



## **TADA! Steps to lower your carbon footprint**

These 4 choices have the most impact: **Become vegetarian • forgo air travel • ditch your car • and—most significantly—have fewer children.**

### **FOOD**

- **Become vegan or vegetarian** Eating no meat cuts an individual's carbon footprint by 820 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, about four times the reduction they'd get by recycling as much as possible.
- **Buy Local, Seasonal Food** Minimizing transportation of goods mitigates climate change.
- **Eat Organic** when possible. Organic food is grown without pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, which usually begin as byproducts of oil refining.
- **Avoid Palm Oil**, found in many junk foods. The Amazon rain forest is being destroyed partly to plant palm oil trees (and partly for cattle ranching).
- **Filter Your Water** Don't buy bottled water. Not only is there an environmental toll of the plastic; your water is also transported to your store.
- **Bring Your Own Shopping Bags!** Duh.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- **Get rid of your car**
- **Buy a hybrid or electric vehicle.** They're getting more affordable and battery life is improving.
- **Fly less**
- **Ride a Bike, Use Public Transit or Carpool** Check out [rideshare.com](http://rideshare.com), and [zipcar.com](http://zipcar.com). The average American spends 18 days of the year in a car,

each car emitting its own weight in carbon dioxide. Try not using your car 1-2 days per week. And if you need to drive, try a carpool. Here are some carpooling apps: [on.mash.to/2jPlcq7](http://on.mash.to/2jPlcq7)

### **HOME**

- **Make less babies** Having one fewer child reduces a person's carbon footprint by a whopping 58.6 metric tons—about the same emissions savings as having nearly 700 teenagers recycle as much as possible for the rest of their lives.
- **Ease Off the Thermostat** The biggest residential demand on our energy system is heating and cooling. Keep your house 2 degrees warmer in summer and 2 degrees cooler in winter. Turning off your thermostat while you're NOT in your home can also save you 15% on your energy bill.
- **Go Solar** Adding solar to your home is an excellent way to reduce your carbon footprint. Solar modules create power at the source, for you, and for the grid. In addition, there are several government incentives. Check out [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org) for information by state.
- **Chose Energy-Efficient Home Appliances**
- **Change your light bulbs** to compact fluorescent, or LED. One bulb replacement can reduce up to 1,300 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution.
- **Laptop v. Desktop: Laptop Wins!** Laptops are designed to be energy-efficient, because of battery lifespan. According to Energy Star, a laptop can be up to 80% more energy-efficient than a desktop.
- **Unplug and Turn it Off** Powering down your gadgets is good for the planet. Unplug your chargers, a.k.a. "wall warts."

- **Reduce and Reuse before Recycling** Transporting and processing materials for recycling is carbon intensive.

- **Avoid Products with Lots of Packaging**

- **Just Buy Less Stuff** Our disposable consumer culture is a big problem.

- **Line dry** your clothes. Old school!

### **TAKE IT ONE STEP FARTHER**

- **Move Your Money** Lots of banks are funding oil pipelines. Tell those banks to take a hike, and take your money elsewhere. A full list of those banks is listed in this article from Yes! Magazine: <http://bit.ly/2cRx7E4>
- **Offset your carbon emissions** Even if you do all this, you'll still create some unavoidable emissions. The United Nations has made offsetting easy, cheap, and reliable, and you decide where the money goes—to solar water heaters in India, for example. Calculate and offset your emissions at [climateneutralnow.org](http://climateneutralnow.org). Or check out [COTAP.org](http://COTAP.org), which also does wonderful deeds with these funds.
- **Plant a Tree** Trees provide shade and oxygen while consuming carbon dioxide. Just one 10-year-old tree releases enough oxygen into the air to support two human beings.

*This list was compiled from a Science.com article by Sid Perkins (07/11/2017), a Forbes.com article by Jeff McMahon, "9 Things You Can do About Climate Change," and a Mashable article by Zoe Fox, "10 Actions You Can Take Today to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint." Additional help from Paige Heggie.*