

January 2024

Interesting News from the Greening Ministry!



Things You Personally Can Do To Reduce Climate Change

As an article in the Globe and Mail from January 10, 2024 written by Wendy Stueck, 2023 was "the warmest year on record" according to the Copernicus Report from the European Union. Ms. Tueck tells us *"temperatures in 2023 likely exceed those of any period in at least the past 100,000 years."* The temperature increase is only partly due to the El Nino effect. Regarding forest fires in Canada, this year was five times worse than any previous year. Such alarming news naturally makes us want to do all we, individually, can do to diminish the problem.

One of the most useful sources of information about climate matters is in a daily paper like The Globe and Mail, where climate issues are usually front page concerns.

An article by Marjo Johne, in the same paper from November 27, 2023 is a study of many things that several people are doing to reduce electricity and water consumption in their own homes. I list the ideas here in no particular order, and added a few of my own suggestions.

- buy an "all refrigerator" and a separate chest freezer - both together use half the energy and have twice the space
- take public transit instead of the car
- ride a bicycle or walk
- reduce meat consumption *about half of the methane emitted in Canada comes from sheep and cattle*
- minimize air travel
- travel by train rather than personal car
- avoid using plastic wrap
- take reusable bags for grocery shopping
- reduce water consumption
- avoid unnecessarily long showers

- use a "smart power bar" or "power strip" with multiple outlets that shuts off unused circuits so they don't draw power *25 percent of the energy used in households is "vampire power" - from devices that are not used but are plugged in and in an idle state and continue using power*
- don't leave lights on in empty rooms
- ensure that doors and windows are well sealed against drafts
- install solar panels
- plant "edible trees" with fruit and nuts for your use and animals'
- plant "guilds of plants" that work well together and need less water
- plant trees and shrubs for shade to cool the garden so it requires less watering
- join community group to learn more about conservation ideas
- grow a vegetable garden
- consider buying second-hand clothes
- install a heat pump
- create a local swap-and-exchange platform to reuse items