

April 2015 EcoFacts



## The Earth, Waste and Greenhouse Gases

In the U.S. 42 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are connected to food and goods.\* All processes from harvest to disposal, including transportation, production, purchasing, and even recycling, contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

### What you can do

- **Consume Less.** Resist the urge. Make a conscious effort to consume less and it will become a daily habit.
- **Compost Organic Waste.** Organic waste placed in anaerobic conditions (like landfills) produces methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. Start a [compost heap](#) in your yard or a [worm bin](#) indoors.
- **Choose Local Products.** Purchase from local businesses and shop at your local farmers market. Local products are fresher, reduce transportation impacts and help the local economy. Independent, locally-owned businesses recirculate a far greater percentage of revenue locally compared to absentee-owned businesses.\*\*
- **Recycle.** Recycling consumes less energy than products made from virgin materials and keeps materials in a closed-loop system. Make sure to look for recycled content on packaging.
- **Select Durable Products.** Generally, durable products are of higher quality and can be reused. Single-use items are wasteful of resources and have a much greater impact on society.
- **Power Down.** Unplug "energy vampires" like cell phone chargers that use energy when not charging. You can also employ ["smart" power strips](#) that cut off power when not being used.



### Policy

Talk to your local representative about the social and environmental benefits of buying local, recycling and composting. Ask them to support policies that encourage the same.

\* <http://epa.gov/climatechange/climate-change-waste/>

\*\* <http://www.amiba.net/resources/multiplier-effect#ixzz3VQOGscbE>

Visit [www.wastecapne.org](http://www.wastecapne.org) for all the information you need for recycling in Nebraska.



WasteCap Nebraska  
402-436-2384  
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