

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 for all the information you need for recycling in Nebraska.



WasteCap Nebraska
402-436-2384
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