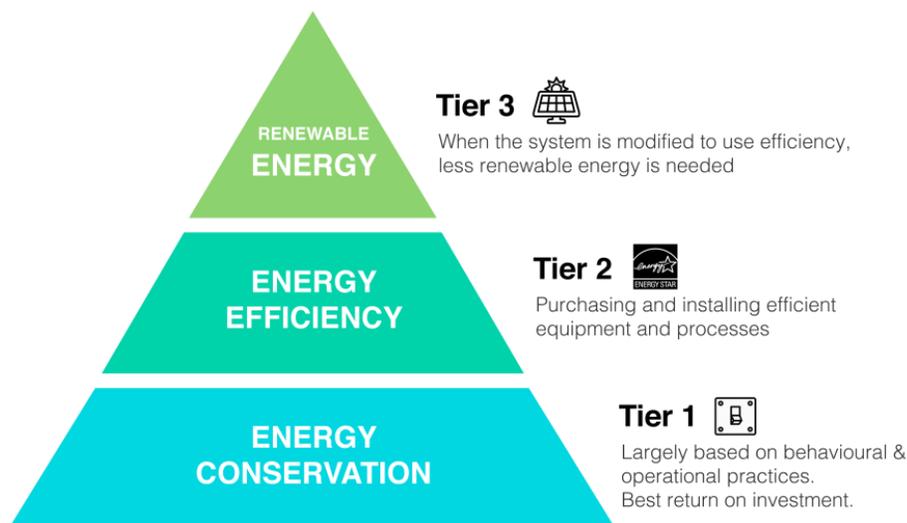


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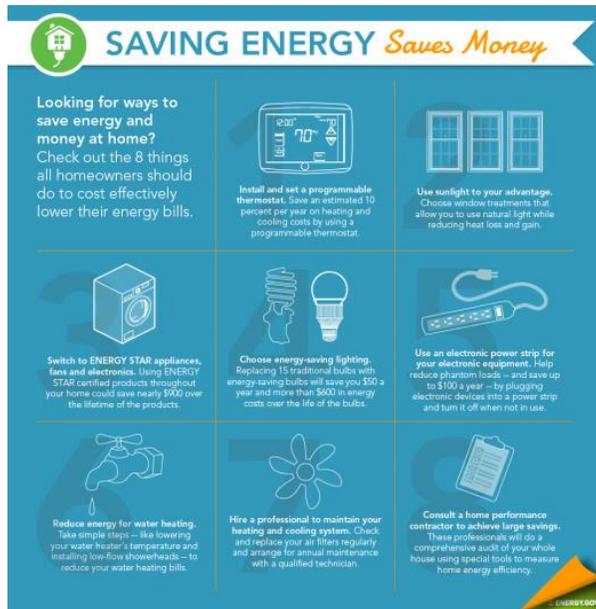
Celebrate Energy Efficiency Day Every Day

October 2, 2019 was National Energy Efficiency Day, recognized each year on the first Wednesday in October by states, cities, counties, non-profits, and companies around the United States. For the second year in a row, the State of Wisconsin issued a proclamation for Energy Efficiency Day, calling out the tremendous impact of the state’s Focus on Energy energy efficiency program (which provides over \$5 in benefits for every \$1 invested) and pointing to efficiency as a “cheap, quick, and clean way to meet our energy needs and reduce utility bills.” Visit the Energy Efficiency Day website to read [Wisconsin’s official proclamation](#) and to [check out tips for decreasing your energy bill](#).



The ACEEE [reported in September](#) that energy efficiency could cut national energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2050, so while we celebrate Energy Efficiency Day just one day each year, you can benefit from the impacts of energy efficiency measures all year by installing more efficient lightbulbs and appliances, making sure your home is weatherized and

free from air leaks, and taking steps to reduce unnecessary energy use throughout your day. See the US Department of Energy’s [“Energy Saver”](#) website for information on HVAC, lighting, insulation, transportation, and design changes that can cut your energy use and costs.



<https://www.energy.gov/articles/resolve-save-energy-year>

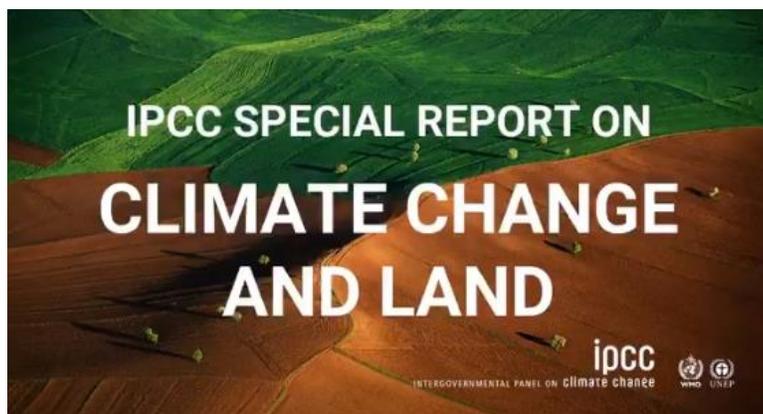
IPCC Special Reports on Global Warming and Climate Change

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Full_Report_High_Res.pdf

In September of 2018, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report on global warming, alerting the global community that in order to keep worldwide temperature rise below 2°C over the coming century, greenhouse gas emissions need to decrease from 2010 levels by roughly 25% by 2030 (45% to keep warming below 1.5°C). This is an aggressive goal, but as more cities and states adopt resolutions to prioritize energy efficiency and carbon-free energy measures (see the [Fitchburg Clean Energy](#)

[Resolution](#) passed in February), we increase the likelihood that we can realize substantial emissions reductions in the coming decades.

Now, one year later, the IPCC [Special Report on Climate Change and Land](#) reveals how our use of land influences the global climate, and how climate change in return affects the land we depend upon for our sustenance. The report shows that improving the



sustainability of our land use can have positive impacts on GHG emissions and climate change, and immediate climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts can reduce negative impacts of climate change on our land. In short, there’s no time like the present to take action!

Climate Strikes Gain Worldwide Attention

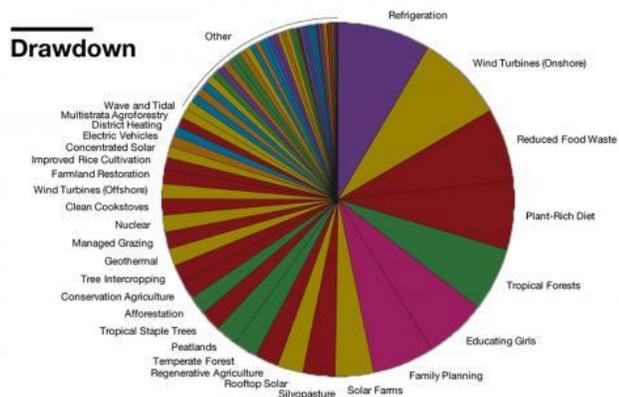
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/27/climate-crisis-6-million-people-join-latest-wave-of-worldwide-protests>

Between September 20 and 27, citizens of over 150 countries around the world organized in a global strike to bring awareness to the urgency of the climate crisis and demand action from their countries' leaders. Inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and many other members of 'Generation Z', millions of concerned citizens protested worldwide (upwards of 7.6 million, according to estimates from 350.org, a key organizer of the protests), making these likely the largest climate protests in world history.

5 Simple Ways to Act on Climate Change

(adapted from an [REI.com](https://www.rei.com/blog/post/5-simple-ways-to-act-on-climate-change) blog post)

- 1. Educate Yourself** – You don't have to be a climate scientist to be a climate advocate, but it doesn't hurt to make sure you're knowledgeable about the subject.
- 2. Recognize Your Impact** – Your [carbon footprint](#) reveals your individual, direct impact on the earth and its climate; understanding that impact is the first step in understanding where you can make positive changes in your life.
- 3. See the Big Picture** – Recognizing your own impact not only helps you see where you can make changes in your day-to-day life, but it also shows where larger system need to change to have the biggest effect. Project Drawdown (*see image below*), released in 2017, identified 100 solutions that together could help lower our GHG emissions to a sustainable level.
- 4. Identify Your Superpowers** – Everybody has different skills, and this effort has many areas of need. Whether you love writing, organizing, volunteering, canvassing, or even just encouraging friends to get outside and be conscious consumers, you can easily transform your passions into climate action with just a little focus.
- 5. Become A Climate Advocate** – It might sound obvious, but the best way to act on climate is simply to become a climate advocate. Register to vote and participate in every election, contact your elected officials, talk with your friends, volunteer with climate-focused organizations, and engage your community.



A “Mulch” Better Option for Your Leaves

From the City of Madison’s Everyday Engineering podcast

<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfMadisonEngineering/videos/395713264456770>

The City of Madison’s Engineering department began a podcast this fall, “Everyday Engineering,” that provides useful tips for homeowners on a variety of topics. In the first episode of October, host Hannah Mohelnitzky and her guests discuss what you can do with your leaves besides leaving them on the street or raking them into piles this autumn. Spoiler alert: those leaves can provide many benefits for your lawn and garden if you choose to keep them around!



Top Reasons to Leave Your Leaves

Dreading the annual autumn leaf-raking tradition? Here are a few reasons you might want to skip the rake and enjoy your lawn’s leaf litter (listen to the Madison Everyday Engineering podcast or see [these tips from the National Wildlife Federation](#) for more details):

- **Your back will thank you!** Raking is repetitive and uncomfortable for many homeowners. This fall, give your back a break and skip the rake.
- **Cut down on nutrient-loading** – leaves that end up in our streets can leach phosphorus into our waterways, which can negatively impact aquatic ecosystems
- **Easy mulch and fertilizer** – use your mower to chop up fallen leaves once they’re dry, and those nutrients can be recycled back into the soil for next spring
- **Winter insulation** – chopped-up leaves left on your lawn can provide insulation from the winter cold for decomposers, grass, and other plants, and leaves can be combined with fallen branches/sticks to make a winter brush shelter for native wildlife

Imagine A Day Without Water

<http://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>

For the fifth year, organizations and governments around the country are working with the Value of Water Campaign to bring awareness to the importance and fragility of our national and global water resources, asking people to “imagine a day without water” on Wednesday, October 23rd. Although living in the Great Lakes region and surrounded by numerous bodies of water can make this essential resource feel unlimited and resistant to damages, maintaining and protecting clean and healthy water bodies takes cooperative effort from all of us. We can contribute by reducing water use when possible, by disposing of waste materials properly, and by reaching out to our public officials and encouraging policies that make accessible clean water a reality for all.

