













Natural Resources Checklist

10 actions to take to protect the environment and lower your carbon footprint

Action	Cost Up Front	Yearly Savings	CO2e Reduction <small>(lbs per year)</small>
1 Estimate your current carbon footprint using an online calculator. Write down your current yearly emissions.	 Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
2 Take our climate action survey indicating what actions you plan to take over the next six months to reduce your emissions and build resilience to climate change.	 Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
3 Plant a tree through one of the many programs available in Fairfax County. Trees absorb emissions, provide shade, and reduce heat and energy use.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓ 115
4 Leave the leaves! Let your fall leaves naturally add nutrients to your lawn or garden rather than bagging or blowing them away.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓ 130
5 If using a leaf blower, switch to an electric-powered model. Gas-powered blowers and other lawn equipment emit a range of harmful pollutants.	 Varies	\$ \$20	↓ 130
6 Use a rain barrel. Using rainwater for outdoor watering can save 10,000 gallons of drinkable water per year while also reducing stormwater runoff.	 \$80	\$ \$110	↓ 90
7 Replace grass on your lawn that requires regular mowing with native shrubs and trees to reduce lawn mower emissions and water use and promote biodiversity.	 Varies	Does Not Apply	↓ Varies
8 Participate in the Conservation Assistance Program, which funds drainage, erosion and flood improvement projects for property owners.	 Varies	\$\$\$ Varies	Does Not Apply
9 Reduce the amount of paved surface, such as asphalt and concrete, on your property. Impervious surface is a leading cause of urban flooding.	 Varies	\$\$\$ Varies	Does Not Apply
10 Add your tree plantings and other natural resource projects to the “Watch the Green Grow” map so we can see the progress we’re making together.	 Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply



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Key: Use this key to help you decide which actions are right for you.

Cost Up Front	Free	\$1 - \$500	\$500- \$1,000	\$1,000+
Yearly Savings	Does Not Apply	\$1 - \$500	\$500- \$1,000	\$1,000+
CO2 Equivalent Reduction	Does Not Apply	1 - 500 lbs	500- 1,000 lbs	1,000+ lbs

(Note: Estimates were made based on an average household of 3 in Fairfax County)

Want more climate actions?
View the full
Climate Action Checklist,
with 70+ items:



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
environment-energy-
coordination/resources-residents](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents)

Resources: Use the below links to learn more about actions to protect natural resources.

1. Carbon Footprint Calculator

◦ <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

2. Climate Action Survey

◦ <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/594d6032d8854514859a3f7b0de1ec17>

3. Tree Planting Programs

◦ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/tree-planting-programs>

4. Leave the leaves

◦ <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-521/430-521.html>

5. Electric-Powered Lawn Equipment

◦ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/electric-powered-lawn-equipment>

6. Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Workshops

◦ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel>

7. Lawn Care for Earth Renewal

◦ <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/reducing-lawn>

8. Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Assistance Programs

◦ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/conservation-assistance-programs>

9. Fairfax County Tree Canopy and Impervious Surface Estimator

◦ <https://fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bd774594fdd5497a8098bc1613f56421>

10. Watch the Green Grow

◦ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/nature-history/watch-green-grow>

To learn more about
natural resources and climate
action, visit our
Climate Action Dashboard:



[fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-
energy-coordination/climate-action](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/climate-action)



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