**Tips and Ideas to Reduce and Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change**

**At home…**

C:\Users\npalate\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EJ68SFXE\MC900363174[1].wmf **Save water:**

* Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth
* Take shorter showers (five minutes or less)
* Choose appliances that save water
* Wash full loads of clothes or dishes
* Fix water leaks
* Water outdoor plants early in the morning or later in the day
* Sweep the street and driveway instead of using water
* Replace your lawn with native or drought-tolerant plants

C:\Users\npalate\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E4U2PJ8U\MC900211979[1].wmf **Reduce your energy consumption:**

* Turn off lights when you don’t need them
* Don’t over or under heat your home
* Change to LED or fluorescent light bulbs
* Unplug electronics you are not using
* Seal windows so your home keeps warm or cool
* Dry your clothes in a clothesline during sunny days instead of using the clothes dryer
* If you are going to buy a home appliance, consider buying an energy efficient one

**Share more and don’t waste food:**

* Cook at home more frequently and eat less meat and animal products
* Plan your meals and your shopping, learn to cook with leftovers, and learn how to store produce and food wisely so they don’t go to waste
* If you have a lot of leftover food share it with others
* Share or ask for things you need sporadically (like tools and electronics) and donate clothes and things you don’t need
* Use reusable grocery bags when shopping instead of plastic bags
* Buy items in bulk or with little or no packaging
* Re-use glass containers to store food instead of plastic containers
* Recycle all plastics instead of tossing them away

**Prepare for emergencies:**

* Check and fix any leaks and remove tree branches near your home
* Build an emergency kit: store enough to provide your family with basic needs for five days, including non-perishable food, water, prescription medicines, and pet supplies
* Make an evacuation plan for your family and agree on a place to meet after a disaster

**In your community…**

C:\Users\npalate\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\8DWFVH6G\MC900320518[1].wmf **Drive less:**

* If you can, walk, bike, or use public transportation instead of driving
* Carpool whenever possible
* If you buy a new vehicle consider buying an electric or hybrid vehicle
* Minimize or consolidate long trips
* Avoid idling (keeping your engine running)
* Maintain your car

**C:\Users\npalate\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\66P0E4N9\MC900390692[1].wmfCombat heat and pollution:**

* Plant a tree… or many!
* Work with your neighbors to green your street. You can then green the next street, the block, and finally the whole city.
* Start growing more of the fruits and vegetables (or herbs) you eat
* Work with your local government to increase green zones like parks, community or hanging gardens in unused spaces
* Work with your local government and other local organizations to restore protective wetlands or marshes that will absorb water and reduce flooding from a coast storm surge or from rivers and streams
* Schedule outdoor activities wisely. Plan exercising, outdoor work and recreation for the cooler hours of the day and evening
* Check on your neighbors and make sure they have a way to stay cool. This is especially important for pregnant women, infants, young children and the elderly