



## 10 eco-friendly earth month tips:

- 1 Invest in **local food**! Growing your own food, or purchasing from the farmer's market, can help reduce your food miles, which contributes to improved air quality. Find out more at: [elpaso-texas.gov/ors/get-involved/local-food](http://elpaso-texas.gov/ors/get-involved/local-food)
- 2 **Compost!** With yard trimmings & food residuals by themselves constituting 24% of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream<sup>1</sup>, composting is a sustainable way to help us reduce our waste stream & impact in our landfills. Find out more at: [elpasotexas.gov/gardenEP](http://elpasotexas.gov/gardenEP)
- 3 Calculate your **carbon footprint** both individually & for your home. A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person, group, etc. Find out how at: [elpasotexas.gov/ors/get-involved/carbon-footprint](http://elpasotexas.gov/ors/get-involved/carbon-footprint)
- 4 Use **alternative transportation**! Using *public transportation, carpooling, biking* or *walking* can save energy and reduce carbon pollution on your way to and from work. Leaving your car at home just 2 days a week can reduce carbon pollution by an average of two tons per year.<sup>2</sup> Find out more at: [elpasotexas.gov/ors/get-involved](http://elpasotexas.gov/ors/get-involved)
- 5 **Wash your clothes in cold water.** It's an easy way to save energy and prevent carbon pollution. Hot water heating accounts for about 90% of the energy your machine uses to wash clothes.<sup>3</sup>
- 6 **Reduce, reuse, recycle.** What does this mean? The *best* way to manage waste is to not produce it in the first place, like printing dual sided, or avoiding purchasing disposable goods. (*reduce*) Use reusable products instead of purchasing one-time use products, like bottled water. (*reuse*) Learn what, how and where to recycle in El Paso, & invest in recycled products! (*recycle*) Find out more about recycling in El Paso at: [www.recycleelpaso.org/](http://www.recycleelpaso.org/)
- 7 **Plant a tree.** A single tree can absorb up to 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Find out more at: [desertcanopy.org](http://desertcanopy.org)
- 8 **Start a garden.** Plants act as highly effective air cleaners, absorbing carbon dioxide, plus many air pollutants, while releasing clean oxygen, which contributes to improved air quality. Gardens can also provide fresh healthy foods which can save you money. Find out more at: [elpasotexas.gov/gardenEP](http://elpasotexas.gov/gardenEP)
- 9 **Turn off the tap.** Conserving water helps reduce your carbon footprint & conserves energy. Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning & before bedtime, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month.<sup>4</sup> Find out more at: <http://www.lessismoreep.org/>
- 10 **Change 5 lights.** the average home spends about 12% of its electricity bill on lighting. Replace your 5 most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with Energy Star qualified products, and you will prevent carbon pollution while saving \$75 a year on energy bills.<sup>5</sup>

1. EPA. <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2015/09/urban-composting-its-always-worth-it/>

2. EPA. <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/tag/earth-month-tips/>

3. EPA. <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/tag/earth-month-tips/>

4. EPA. <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/tag/earth-month-tips/>

5. EPA. <https://blog.epa.gov/blog/tag/earth-month-tips/>