



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

This final installment of our three-part series explores how individuals, businesses and local groups can work together to mitigate harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Third in a Three-Part Series

PHOTO BY JOSH DUKE | UNSPLASH

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7pm

Join Emerald Keepers for a Presentation by Carl Yaeckel, a Congressional Liaison and Group Leader for Citizens Climate Lobby, an organization based in Coronado. Learn about this local group and all they do to raise awareness about Climate Change and lobby for congressional support. The Zoom link is available at [Emerald-Keepers.org](https://emeraldkeepers.org).



WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Did you know the City of Coronado is creating a Climate Action Plan? Following three townhall-style workshops in 2020, a draft plan to reduce local community and municipal greenhouse gas emissions is in the works and will be unveiled to the public soon. Climate change is a global phenomenon, but we can be part of the solution.

INDIVIDUAL STRATEGIES

Each of us has a “carbon footprint.” This measure is the total amount of heat-trapping greenhouse gases our actions produce contributing to the increase in global surface temperature and climate change. The average annual carbon footprint for a person in the U.S. is 16 tons — compared to the global average of 4 tons—and experts say the global average needs to drop under 2 tons by 2050 to avoid irreversible consequences. Our work is cut out for us, but small changes go a long way.

You can learn more about estimating your individual carbon footprint using the Carbon Footprint Calculator at [Nature.org](https://nature.org). In addition, ideas to help you reduce your footprint can be found on the Emerald Keepers website

under Initiatives. See if you can incorporate a few of these strategies between now and Earth Day, which is April 22. Here are a few suggestions:

- Ride/walk more; drive less.
- Carpool or take the ferry to work.
- Eat less meat.
- Don’t idle your car engine.
- Avoid aggressive starts and stops while driving and use cruise control when possible.
- Use LED lights in your home and workspaces.
- Only use air conditioning and heat when necessary — put on a sweater!
- Offset your emissions by donating to causes that foster sustainability.
- Investigate energy saving options such as eco-choice and eco-share at [SDG&E](https://SDG&E.org).

If you have the capacity to choose a low-emission vehicle or make modifications to your home to incorporate renewable energy, such as solar, wind or geothermal, consider this strategy. A local homeowner shared that her family’s choice was motivated by the availability of state tax credits to help with the cost of installation, the ability to offset air conditioning costs, access to a skilled and trustworthy local contractor and, of course, a desire to play a part in reducing fossil fuel usage. She said the return on the investment is higher when taking into consideration what she is passing on to her children.

RESTAURANT AND BUSINESS STRATEGIES

Did you know plastics are a significant source of greenhouse gas production? Plastics are made from fossil fuels involving an energy-intensive process and will also release greenhouse gases at the end of their life cycle.

Our local restaurants and businesses can pledge to be “Emerald Green, Ocean Blue” by moving away from reliance on the use of plastics as much as possible. Strategies include:

- Using reusable tableware.
- Providing plastic to-go utensils and bags only upon request.
- Recycling plastic items that cannot be avoided.

Additionally, restaurants and business can reduce their carbon footprints by incorporating energy conservation practices, scaled to the level of business operation. To learn which restaurants and businesses in Coronado are Emerald Green, Ocean Blue, visit Emerald Keepers’ website or look for postings in shop and restaurant windows.

CITY OF CORONADO

Coronado is a city that takes great pride in the ability of local individuals to be positive forces for our community. Most of us have heard the old adage that if everybody thinks that somebody will take action, nobody will. This diffusion of responsibility is the biggest threat to climate change. Ultimately, each of us must commit to transforming household lifestyles and workplace practices to be the change that will reverse the effects of climate change.

For information on how the City of Coronado is progressing on its Climate Action Plan and to contribute your comments, go to commentcoronado.org/climate-action-plan.



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For more information visit **EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG**

Photo by Brian Lippe

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