

## Climate Emergency Pledge

**Download the workbook [here](#)**

Municipalities across Canada have declared climate change emergencies. This pledge is one way the average citizen can take part. Instead of waiting for the government to force change, you can start right now on your own.

The best thing about it is that you actually save money. For example, an electric car may cost more to purchase than a gas one but the monthly savings with everything included are typically 15% to 20% less. And replacing your furnace and A/C when they die with a heat pump saves money as well, particularly for those using propane, oil or electric heat.

Jade Environmental Services offers loans that mean you put no money down and the monthly savings are more than the financing costs.

The IPCC says we have eleven years to get it right. Pledge to reduce carbon by 50 Eco-Score points (10 tonnes of carbon per year) or reach a score of 25, whichever comes first in 10 years.

### **Step 1. Get Your Current Eco-Score**

Get your current situation by completing the Current tab questionnaire for your score. This can be for a whole family or an individual.

The point system is like a snapshot in time of how green you are. It's like a golf score that lets you know how you compare to others. The lower the better.

### **Step 2. Determine Your Reduction**

Go to the Target tab and come up with ways to improve. See the example given in the spreadsheet. The objective is to lower your score which translates into how much carbon you are producing. As mentioned, most actions save you money and can be cash flow positive after financing.

Do some homework. Start with your vehicle in the first ten questions. See the Green Vehicle tab and guide for buying an electric, plug-in hybrid or hybrid vehicle at <http://www.jadeenvironmentalservices.com/resources/How%20to%20Choose%20a%20Hybrid%2C%20PHEV%20or%20BEV%20Feb%2028%202019.pdf>

Use the Buy and Sell calculator to see what switching vehicles can do.

Next consider what you might do to reduce fossil fuel use in your home in questions 11 to 18. This may take some effort. Have an energy audit done by a qualified advisor. This will provide some initial recommendations. It is different from the current audits for energy rebates. It provides costs for recommended options and how to finance them. See the Savings tab.

See the program for upgrades to homes showing the cost, financing and carbon reductions. The best bang for your buck is adding insulation and sealing gaps and cracks. You can find it here.

<http://www.jadeenvironmentalservices.com/resources/Green%20Home%20and%20Car%20Upgrade%20Program%20February%202019%20R1.pdf>

Then go through the other categories of food, waste and water.

Examine your score and compare it to the challenge. The Eco-Score is not in units of tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions. This is intentional because some aspects of climate change are not just about carbon. For purposes of the challenge, the conversion is 5 points per tonne. To reduce by 10 tonnes you need to reduce by 50 points. Rework your score as needed to achieve the 50 point reduction or reach a score of 25.

### Step 3. Make Your Pledge

Lay out your plan for the next ten years using the Pledge tab showing how many points per year you will bring down each year until you reach 50 or bring your total score down to 25. Try to achieve at least 25 points in the first three years.

Here is an example of what one family has done as shown on the sample workbook.

		Current Score =	128		
Year	Action	Points	Cost	Final	Annual
		Reduction		Score	Savings
1	Install low flow faucets, 25 d) to a), none to all	2.25	\$200	125.75	\$158
2	Recycle and compost, 22 d) to a), none to all	8.25	\$0	117.5	\$0
3	Reduce electricity and gas consumption, 11 d) to a)	4	\$0	113.5	\$750
4	Added insulation 16 a) to d) (\$400)	3.3	\$400	110.2	\$250
5	Replace truck 8 e) with Hybrid SUV 4 f)*	10.5	\$4,000	99.7	\$600
6	Install LED lights 13 d) to a) (\$40)	3.6		96.1	\$200
7	Buy less stuff	3		93.1	\$300
8	Trade mid size car 7 f) for a PHEV 3 f)*	16.1	\$2,000	77	\$800
9				77	
10				77	
Total	* difference in price for hybrid vs gas vehicle	51	\$6,600		\$3,058