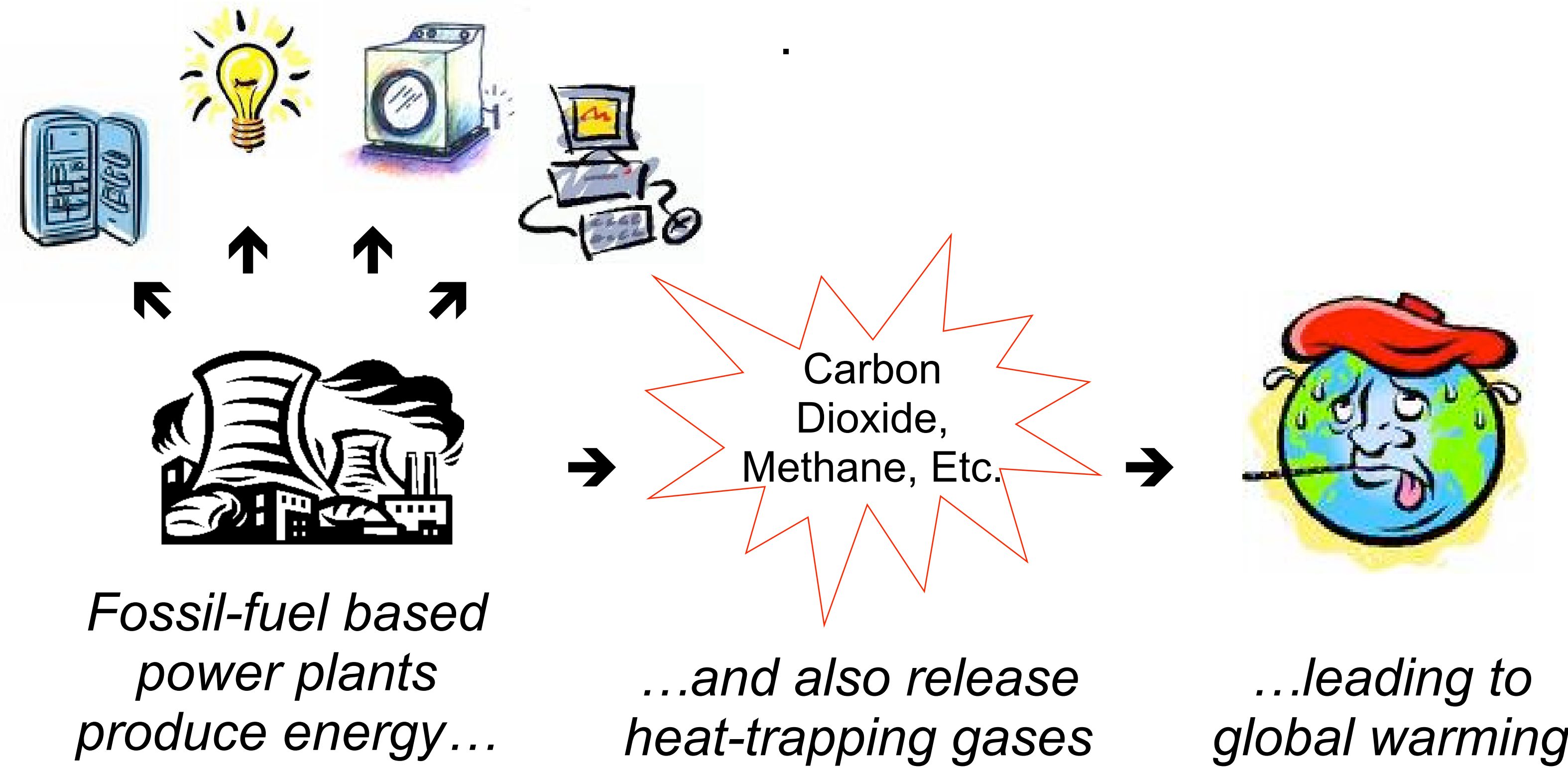


How Can We Minimize Climate Change?

The most important action we can take is to help reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases that contribute to climate change, especially carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide gets released primarily from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) and from deforestation. The easiest way for us to individually minimize climate change is by **saving energy**. Individuals, communities, businesses and governments all have the opportunity and responsibility to help, starting by educating ourselves about the problem and additional solutions.



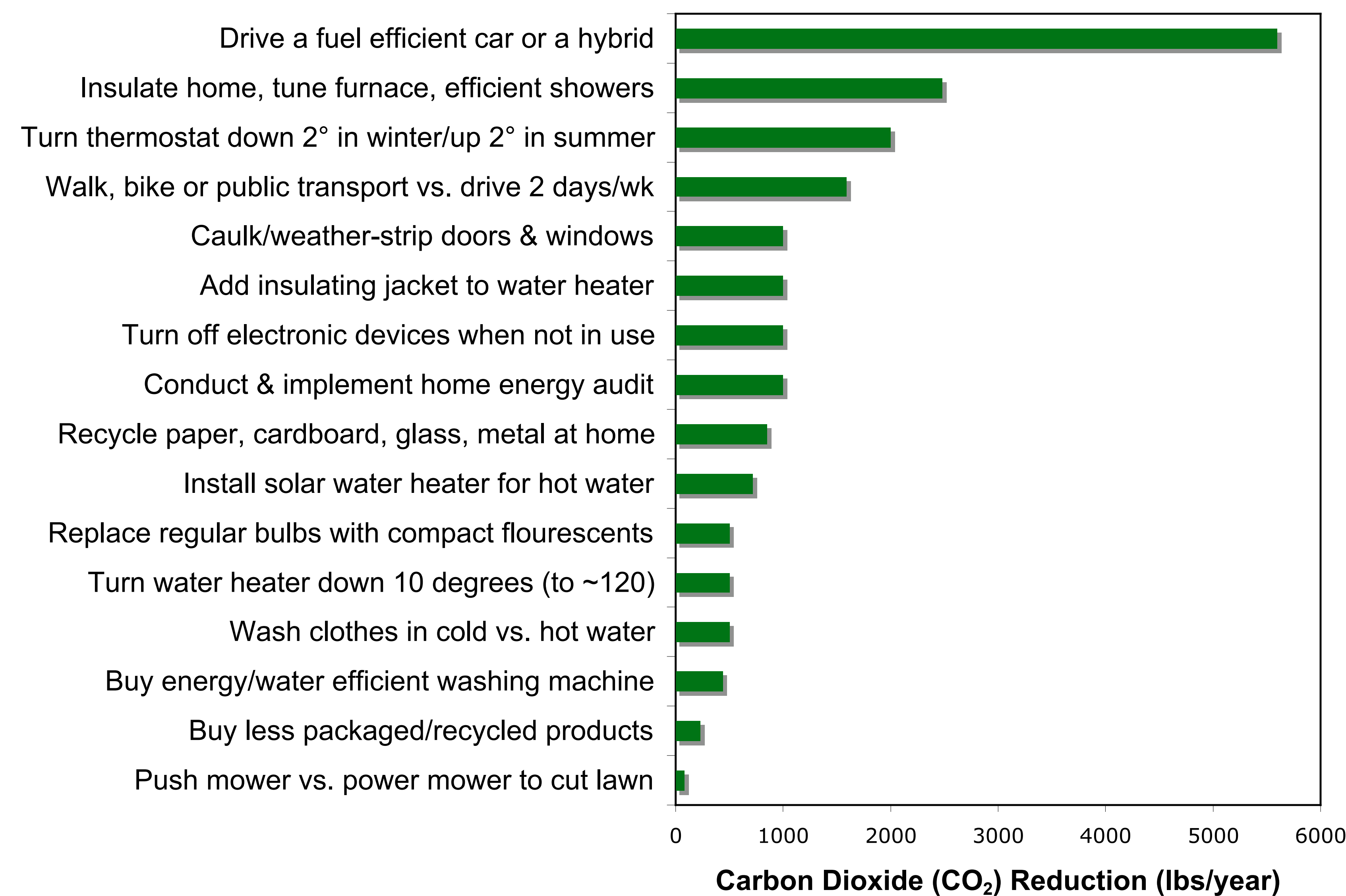
Additional Resources

- Regional & Local Town Info: www.massclimateaction.org
- Saving Energy: www.energystar.gov & www.aceee.org (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy)
- Calculate your CO₂ output: www.carboncounter.org
- Carbon Offset Info.: www.ecobusinesslinks.com/carbon_offset_wind_credits_carbon_reduction.htm
- More tips & science info: www.ucsusa.org/global_warming (Union of Concerned Scientists)
- For Kids: epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html & www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/kidspage.cfm

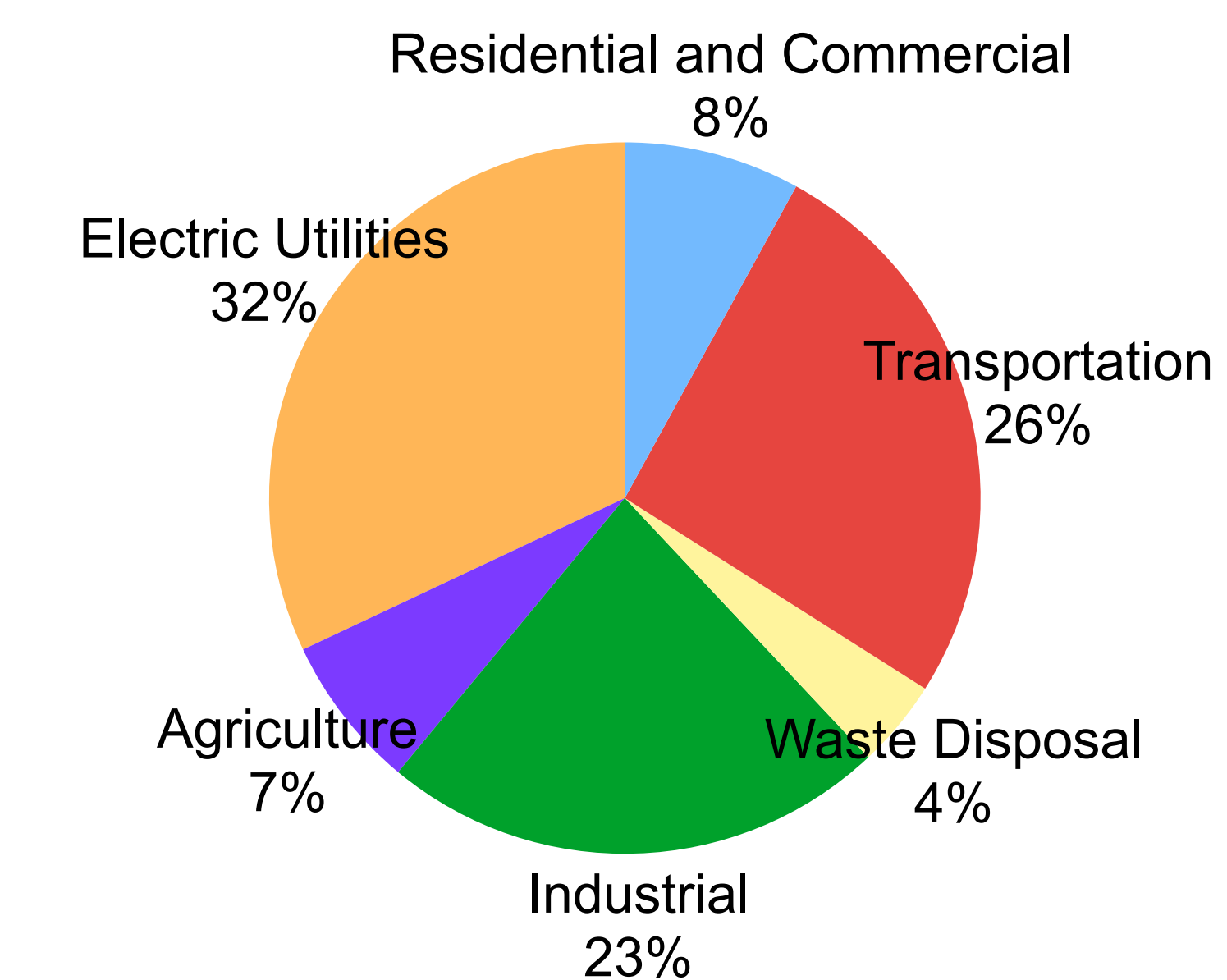
Here's How YOU Can Make a Difference:

- ✓ **Save Energy (& Money!) at Home** (see figure below for ideas)
- ✓ **Save Natural Resources** (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- ✓ **Make Smart Transportation Choices** (carpool, public transport, walk, bike, fuel efficient vehicle)
- ✓ **Be a Conscientious Consumer** (buy less packaged products, buy from environmentally friendly merchants/companies)
- ✓ **Tell Your Family & Friends** about the Problem & Solutions
- ✓ **Encourage Community Action & Government Leadership** (Vote smart, contact politicians, attend town meetings, learn about action in your town - see Additional Resources)
- ✓ **Be Creative** (plant a tree, buy locally grown produce, fertilize from compost, invest in carbon offsets, install solar panels)

Great Ways to Save Energy & Reduce Global Warming



Here's How Communities & Government Can Help:



The pie chart shows the amount of carbon dioxide emissions for different sectors in the U.S.

Each residential household has the potential to cut >15,000 lbs. of carbon each year, but we need communities, businesses & governments to help with the rest of the pie.

- ✓ **Increase energy efficiency standards** (Promote clean, renewable energy sources (wind, solar, etc.))
- ✓ **Increase funding for new technologies** (alternative fuels like biofuels, fuel efficient vehicles, etc.)
- ✓ **Improve carpooling, biking & public transportation options**
- ✓ **Decrease fossil fuel subsidies**
- ✓ **Enact legislation to decrease emissions**
- ✓ **Encourage construction of "green" buildings**
- ✓ **Protect and restore forests & natural areas** (one acre of intact forest holds ~ 260,000 lbs of carbon)
- ✓ **Buy carbon offsets** (see Additional Resources)
- ✓ **Participate in initiatives & agreements** - Local (e.g., majors), Regional (e.g., Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), International (e.g., Kyoto Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

Sources
 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
 Pew Center on Global Climate Change
 Global Environment and Technology Foundation/EPA
 Climate Solutions (www.climatesolutions.org)
www.climatecrisis.net

Created by Heather Charles for the Boston-Area Climate Experiment.
 This poster was designed during the class "Climate Change: Mechanisms and Biological Impacts," at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Fall 2006.