



Many of us are concerned about the dangers posed by climate change but are stymied by the overwhelming nature of the problem. We know that the greenhouse gases produced by the energy we use, the products we consume, and the stuff we throw away are significant causes of climate change, and we know we need to reduce our carbon footprints (our emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide). Now there is a fun way for us to work together locally to make effective changes in our lives.

Frankfort Climate Action Network (FrankfortCAN) is partnering with local organizations and volunteer team leaders on a greenhouse gas reduction initiative, called Lighten Up, Frankfort! The goal for Lighten Up, Frankfort! is to achieve substantial, measurable reductions in our community's carbon footprint. This year, we hope to involve 400 families in achieving a greenhouse gas emission reduction of 1000 tons. We also hope to raise awareness about the simple things people can do to conserve resources in the broader community.

We are using a simple and attractive guidebook called The Low Carbon Diet which is being employed successfully to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in communities around the country. During this initiative, participating households will gather in small groups four times over the course of two to three months to calculate their household's carbon footprint, set a target for reduction, and plan or implement changes that will reduce their emissions to meet their target. The changes that participants make may include increasing recycling, reducing hot water use, carpooling, tightening up drafty windows and doors, or installing a more energy-efficient appliance. Most participants will find that they are saving money on utility bills as well as reducing their carbon footprint.

At the end of June we will report carbon reduction totals achieved, the number of families involved and the names of participating organizations.

For more information, contact FrankfortCAN Lighten Up Coordinator Lisa Satin

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