

# Saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

In our last opinion editorial, we described some of the steps ExxonMobil is taking to address the risk of climate change. These included working to improve energy efficiency and fuel economy, and groundbreaking research into low-emissions technologies.

This week, we focus on consumers. Over one third of all energy-related carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in the European Union – about 1.4 billion tonnes annually – result from consumers using energy at home or on the road. So the combined energy-saving efforts of many individuals can make a real difference. Here are some simple steps to consider:

**Be sensible about electricity use.** Electricity accounts for about half of carbon dioxide emissions attributed to homes in the EU. Saving electricity helps reduce emissions. In fact, if every home in the EU used 10% less electricity, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saved would be equivalent to taking about 20 million cars off the road. So turn off unnecessary lights. Replace incandescent bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescent lamps, lasting six to ten times longer. Turn off TVs, computers and other equipment when not in use. Consider the energy-saving performance of new appliances you're thinking of buying.

**Heat and cool your home efficiently.** About

three quarters of a typical European home's energy consumption is for heating, cooling or hot water. Reduce energy waste by installing adequate insulation and plugging leaks. Clean air filters regularly and service heating and cooling units annually. Set your thermostat comfortably low in the winter and comfortably high in the summer, or consider a programmable thermostat adjusted to your schedule.

**Improve your miles per litre.** Cars account for

over 10% of all energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in the EU. Improve your own fuel economy by avoiding aggressive driving, clearing your car of extra weight, performing scheduled maintenance such as changing air filters, and using the right tyres at the right pressure. Choosing a quality lubricant for your car's

engine can also make a difference. For longer-term emissions savings, make fuel economy one decision factor when you purchase your next vehicle.

**Estimate your own greenhouse gas emissions.**

Try the European Commission's Carbon Calculator at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/campaign/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/campaign/index_en.htm)

We all have a role to play in addressing the risks of climate change. Steps like these can help you make your contribution.

---

## Energy-saving consumers can make a real difference

---



**ExxonMobil**

Taking on the world's toughest energy challenges.™

If you want to read more about our company, please visit our web site at [exxonmobileurope.com](http://exxonmobileurope.com)