How You Can Help Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (& Save Money):

Insulate your home
As weather is set to become more unpredictable, the likelihood of more heat waves and cold snaps increases. Install high-quality insulation to keep your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

Get some window blinds
During periods of hot weather, sunlight can drastically raise the indoor temperature, making it harder to escape the stifling heat and reducing the effectiveness of your air conditioning.

Use light-colored building materials
If you're renovating, use light-colored materials to beat the heat. Opting for a white granulated roof can reflect up to 96% of sunlight, while metallic colored paint on the inside of your roof deck can block up to 75% of the heat coming in.

Fix that dripping tap
Astonishingly, a leaky tap can account for more than 16 gallons of water wastage a week.

Don't idle your car
Idling a car for two minutes can use the same amount of gas as driving one mile. Whether you drive or idle your car, the exhaust unleashes pollutants into the air. The gases emitted from an operating car include carbon dioxide, or CO_2, a major greenhouse gas involved in climate change.

Switch to LED light bulbs
LED light bulbs use up to 85% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs, and can last up to 25 years. There are about 6 billion screw-in sockets across the US and almost half still have non-LED bulbs in them. If every home switched those sockets over to LED at once, we'd save an estimated 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions a year. That's equal to the emissions from 7 million cars. **On average, every household would save about $100 a year on its electric bill.**

Eat a few meat-free and dairy-free meals each week
Avoiding meat and dairy products is the "single biggest way" to reduce your environmental impact on the Earth, according to Oxford University scientists behind the most comprehensive study to-date. Meat and dairy produce 60% of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions, but provide only 18% of calories and 37% of protein. Deforestation, to make way for livestock, along with methane emissions from both cows and fertilizer use, create as many greenhouse gas emissions as the world's cars, trucks and airplanes combined.

Compost and/or buy less food
A low percentage of all food waste is composted - much of it ends up in landfills and makes up a large part of municipal solid waste. **Methane emissions from landfills represent one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector**.

Home composting can divert up to 331 lbs. of food waste per household per year. Compost in your backyard or consider **Curbside Compost** for home pick-up of your food waste (Curbcompost.org).

Additional actions that can help make a difference
- Buy small cars that use less gas & fewer raw materials to manufacture, or buy electric or hybrid cars
- Buy local products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by the transportation of goods
- Fly less (if you do fly, offset your emissions - **check out the Cool Effect website at Cooleffect.org**)