

Wyckoff: How to Keep the Beauty

Daniel O'Connell
RHS Class of 2020
WEC Junior Commissioner Project
Presented: December 2017

CLIMATE CHANGE

Right now our Earth is undergoing climate change, which refers to any change in our global climate, and it is happening at an extremely accelerated rate! In fact, our Earth is increasing in temperature 10X faster now than when the Earth transitioned from the Ice Age. The biggest factor in global warming acceleration is the use of technologies which release greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

THE STATS

Per latest report from the US Energy Information Administration published in 2015, NJ ranks 16th in the US for total carbon emissions and 36th for the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted / person or 15 metric tons/person. This means as a town Wyckoff emits 255,585 metric tons of carbon dioxide/year.

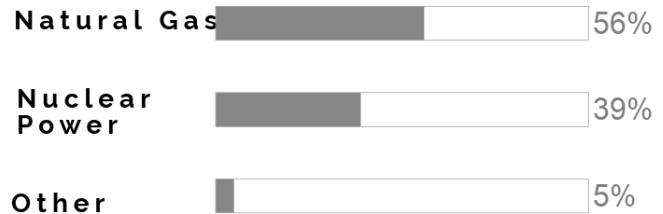
SO WHAT?

Everyone in Wyckoff can make a difference! We have an opportunity to come together and reduce carbon emissions every day preserving the beauty we have in this town. Pictured below are two examples of the beauty we enjoy - the picture on the top is taken at the J.A. McFaul Environmental Center and the picture on the bottom is from Zabriskie Pond. If we want to preserve the beauty of the town we live in and our planet, we must lower the 255,585 metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted in Wyckoff starting today! The more we do and the more we encourage others, the more time we, our children, and generations to come will have to enjoy our beautiful world.

WAYS WE CAN HELP!

1. Take shorter and/or colder showers, this will reduce your carbon emissions because your water heater will use less power
2. Plant a tree, it can absorb upwards of 48 lbs of carbon dioxide a year
3. Change normal light bulbs in your house to LEDs, as they use 75% less energy than normal bulbs
4. Get a programmable thermostat, they can make sure that air conditioning and heat are used only when necessary
5. Unplug electronic devices when they are not in use because some use the same amount of power when they are in "sleep mode" versus when they are awake.
6. Inform as many people as you can and get them on board with these strategies. The more people promoting these habits, the better off the world will be!

POWER USAGE IN NEW JERSEY



"New Jersey - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)."
U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis,
www.eia.gov/state/?sid=NJ#tabs-4.

POWERFUL FACTS

While natural gas and nuclear-generated energy are seen as better alternatives to energy from coal or oil, they still present challenges. While natural gas produces 50-60% less carbon dioxide than coal and oil, the drilling for natural gas releases methane gas, a warming agent 86X stronger than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period. Natural gas burns cleaner than oil or coal but it's by product escaped methane requires improved drilling techniques for true long-term viability. Nuclear power is a very eco-friendly way of developing power and produces minimal carbon emissions but also has risks associated with it. A nuclear meltdown, while rare, could be catastrophic to the environment if it were to occur.

