



The Daily Gleaner

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Carbon Neutral Day

The City of Fredericton has deemed Friday May 2 “Carbon Neutral Day”. So what does this mean? As we are all aware, carbon dioxide emissions are created by many of our daily activities, such as driving our car and using electricity to heat and light our homes, to name a few. Being carbon neutral means offsetting the fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emissions that we emit into our atmosphere. These emissions are often referred to as our ‘carbon footprint’. Carbon Neutral Day is intended to raise awareness and motivate Frederictonians to reflect on choices made in our everyday lives that impact the environment; and how we can move towards a more earth-friendly lifestyle thus reducing our impact on our environment.

So, how does one become ‘carbon neutral’? Many things that we are already doing in our homes and businesses begin our journey towards having a low or no carbon impact on the environment. Using less electricity is a big start - replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, turning the lights off when they are not in use, turning our heat down; conserving water; as well as driving less and driving a fuel-efficient car all contribute. Never doubt that small changes, when added together, can significantly reduce our community’s carbon footprint.

If you’d like to calculate your carbon footprint, there are many ways to do so online, just Goggle *Carbon Zero* or *Carbon Counter*. Once you calculate your carbon footprint, you can decide how you wish to reduce it, and perhaps even offset the rest. The most effective way to purchase carbon offsets is to do so as locally as possible. For example, you can donate to the Fredericton Community Foundation’s Green Fund, which provides grants to groups and organizations who engage in local initiatives that positively impact the environment. For more information on Carbon Neutral Day and how you can participate check out the events section at www.greenmattersfredericton.com.

One thing we recommend doing to reduce your impact is to drive less – and on May 2nd that will be even easier to do! The City of Fredericton will offer **FREE TRANSIT DAY** all day long! On that day, stop by the Green Matters booth at the Wilmot United Church across from Kings Place to pick up your bus schedule! And if you are already participating in active transportation by biking, keep in mind that City buses have bike racks, so don’t hesitate to put your bike on the bus if you need a lift!

You are wondering why there will be a Green Matters booth across from Kings Place, right? Well, on May 2nd and 3rd, the Wilmot United Church invites everyone to their 5th Annual Seminar to hear a wide range of incredible speakers, including Dr. David Suzuki discussing the theme “Sacred Balance”. As well, throughout the weekend there will be environment-related workshops on everything from organic cooking to hybrid cars, soap making, spirituality and composting. Check out www.wilmotuc.nb.ca for more details and a full schedule of events.

As you can see, the environmental events calendar in Fredericton continues to grow as the green revolution takes hold – next weekend is proof of that! Come downtown and take part, and don't forget to do your part to contribute to Carbon Neutral Day! If you've never taken City Transit before, Friday May 2nd is a great time to try it out – for free!

Jessica Scott is currently working as an environmental policy researcher for the City of Fredericton. If you have any 'green' questions and comments please e-mail us at greenmatters@fredericton.ca