# Leaner Energy

## The majority of greenhouse gases come from burning fossil fuels to produce energy.

Most of the energy used in the US comes from non-renewable sources such as petroleum, coal and other fossil fuels. Burning these fuels at extremely high temperatures is the primary way electricity is produced, but also releases high concentrations of greenhouse gases and other pollutants into the environment. While some fossil fuels have less of an impact than others, all of their emissions contribute to climate change and its increasing impacts to human health.

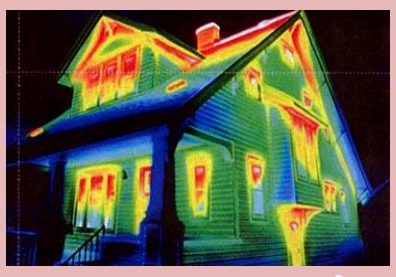
**Heat Waves.** Climate change will likely lead to more frequent, more severe, and longer heat waves in the summer. Heat waves can lead to heat stroke and dehydration, and are the most common cause of weather-related deaths.

**Extreme Weather Events.** The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is projected to increase due to climate change, as is the severity of tropical storms such as Hurricane Sandy. In addition to weather-related injuries and deaths, this can also reduce the availability of fresh food and water and prevent timely access to healthcare.

**Reduced Air Quality.** Researchers project that warmer temperatures from climate change will increase ground-level ozone, which can damage lung tissue, reduce lung function and inflame airways. It could also worsen the severity of allergies by lengthening the spring pollen season.

**Spread of Disease.** Disease-causing agents called pathogens can be transmitted through food, water and animals. Climate change could affect all of these transmitters, increasing the prevalence of

Air pollution → Respiratory illness



Wasted energy → Wasted $$$

## Recommended Just*One* Actions

Turn Off Your Computer ◊ Do a Home Energy Audit

Set Computer to Sleep Mode ◊ Turn Off a Light

Unplug Electronics ◊ Install a CFL or LED Light Bulb