



Dear Friends,

We invite you to join a growing number of people concerned about the fate of the natural environment in an act of personal **climate advocacy**.

The United States now stands alone among all nations in our refusal to participate in the Paris Climate accord, an agreement signed by 194 countries that seeks to mitigate climate change.

Since that decision was made, many governors and mayors across the nation have voluntarily agreed to move forward toward the goals of the accord; but what about citizens who wish to make a difference?

Individuals who are concerned about global health and the impact of climate disruption need not be powerless to act. Out of this sense of urgency and individual empowerment has come the "Personal Climate Pledge" presented here.



This document may become a reminder or represent your own personal commitment. This is a personal choice that can remain completely private, or can be shared with others. The pledge and related documents can be downloaded for **free** from our website at the link below or you can request framed photographic reproduction of the original to display. Nice gift. You can also share your own experiences with other pledgers by emailing your story to us at info@sustainfloyd.org for possible display on our website.

We must stand together today for the sake of a livable tomorrow.

Within this packet you'll find:

- A pledge document ready for your signature.
- A set of practical information sheets that can help you achieve your pledge.

Thank you for joining us, with warm wishes from SustainFloyd.

The Pledge

SIMPLE IDEAS ON REDUCING HOME ENERGY USE

- **Adjust your thermostat to 78 degrees F in summer and 68 degrees F in winter.**
Energy savings can be as much as 1% for each degree set lower or higher. Save 5-10% of the energy and cost to cool/heat your house by setting the thermostat 5-10 degrees warmer/cooler.
- **Turn off lights when not in use and use natural day light whenever possible and use CFL or LED bulbs as they burn out.**
Lighting in the home can account for up to 10% of your energy bill. Energy efficient light bulbs save much more energy and last much longer. If you use CFL bulbs then they must be disposed of properly.
- **Wash clothes in cold water and dry laundry using a clothesline instead of using the dryer whenever possible.**
Heating water accounts for 80 to 90% of the energy used to wash clothes. Dryers are high energy users.
- **Avoid the use of a second refrigerator or freezer. Keep the coils clean and adjust thermostat to its lowest effective setting.**
Refrigerators and freezers are the appliances that use the most energy in your home.
- **Change your furnace/heat pump filter regularly.**
A dirty filter is the biggest reason for system failure and inefficiency.
- **Reduce “vampire” energy use with a “smart power strip” that senses when appliances are off.**
Vampire energy use, which is when appliances and electronics are on stand-by meaning they are still using electricity when turned off, can be 5% of residential energy use.

SIMPLE REASONS TO BUY LOCAL

- **Purchasing locally grown and produced products minimizes the impact of the embodied energy related to shipping food and products from a distance.**
Tremendous amounts of fossil fuel energy are required to ship food and products by truck, train and container ship.
- **Buying local creates jobs and opportunities.**
Not only do local businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue but they also provide business to local printers, accountants, wholesalers, attorneys, and farmers.
- **Purchasing locally strengthens the local economy.**
Each dollar spent at a local business returns 3x more money to the local economy than one dollar spent at a chain.
- **Local food is better for you.**
The shorter the time between the farm and the table the less likely it is that nutrients will be lost from fresh food.
- **Local food is an investment in the future.**
By supporting local farmers today, you are helping to ensure that there will be farms in your community tomorrow.



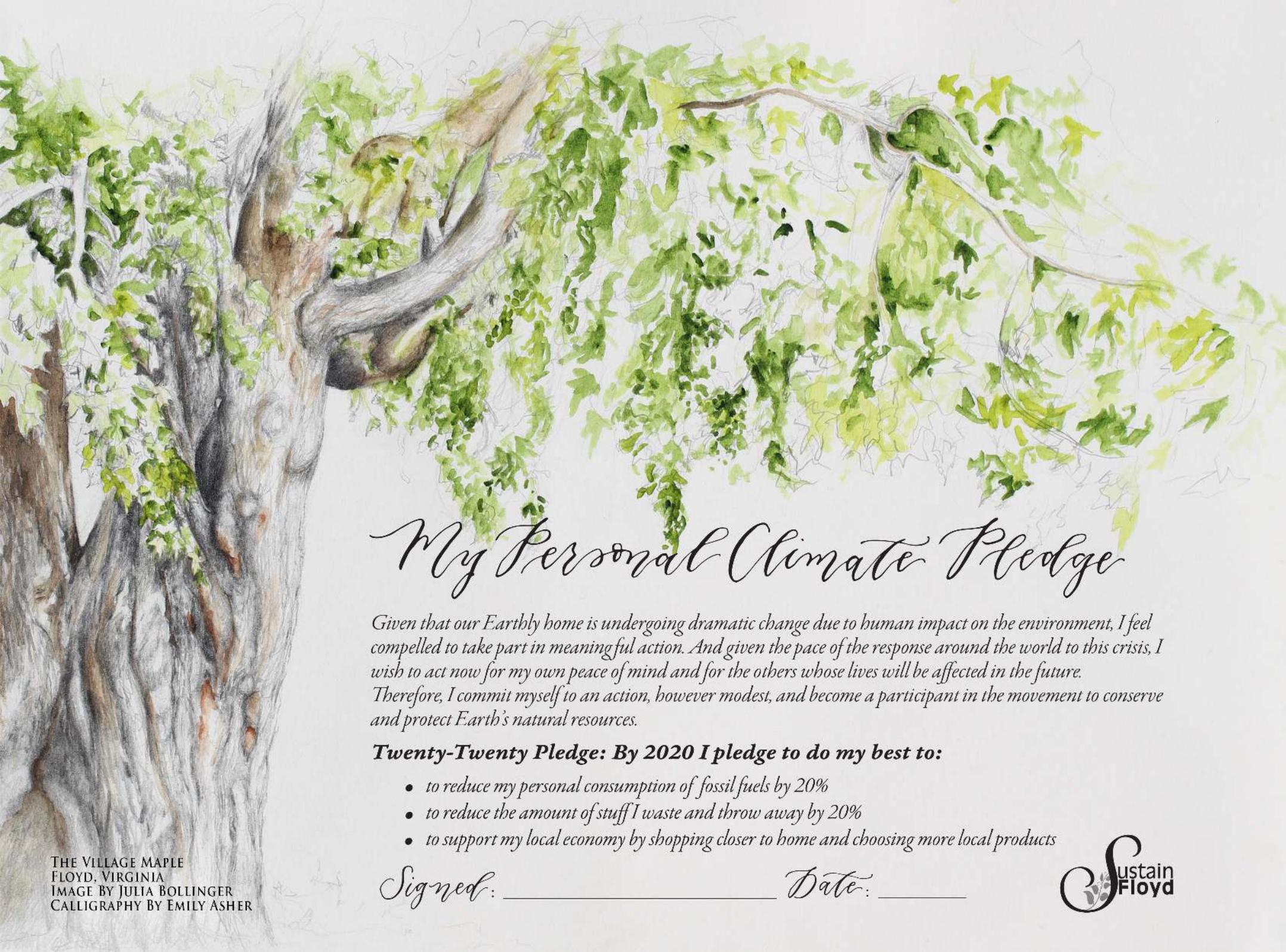
SIMPLE IDEAS ON IMPROVING YOUR VEHICLE GAS MILEAGE AND DRIVING MORE EFFICIENTLY

- **Check your tire pressure.**
Under-inflated tires are one of the most commonly ignored causes of bad MPG.
- **Avoid keeping heavy items in your car.**
An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could increase your gas costs by up to \$.03 cents per gallon.
- **Slow down and drive the speed limit. Avoid aggressive driving to protect your car and yourself.**
One of the best ways to save gas is simply to reduce your speed. Aggressive driving can lower your highway gas mileage by up to 33% and your city mileage by 5%.
- **Combine errands.**
Several short trips, each one taken from a cold start, can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- **Get regular maintenance checks to avoid fuel economy problems due to worn spark plugs, dragging brakes, sagging belts, blocked filters, dirty oil and low transmission fluids.**
Fixing a serious maintenance issue can improve mileage by as much as 40%.

SIMPLE IDEAS ON REDUCING YOUR PERSONAL WASTE STREAM

- **Donate clothes.**
Throwing away clothes is one of the biggest contributions we make to landfills today.
- **Buy things with less packaging.**
Buying food in bulk means less packaging and less waste. Focus on products with no packaging or less packaging.
- **Recycle.**
Keep a recycle bin in your home and make more trips to the recycling center than to the landfill.
- **Compost.**
Composting helps you recycle kitchen waste and reduces the amount sent to landfills.
- **Do not use plastic water bottles.**
80% of the 25 billion single serving (oil based) plastic water bottles Americans use each year end up in landfills.
- **Use reusable bags, not plastic bags.**
Americans use more than 380 billion oil based plastic bags that are used on average for five minutes. They litter our land and ocean and endanger wildlife.
- **Buy only what you need.**
Landfills are filled with waste from over consumption and purchasing.
- **Limit toxics.**
Cleaning products, gardening products, and home repair products contain hazardous chemicals that often end up in the waste stream.





My Personal Climate Pledge

Given that our Earthly home is undergoing dramatic change due to human impact on the environment, I feel compelled to take part in meaningful action. And given the pace of the response around the world to this crisis, I wish to act now for my own peace of mind and for the others whose lives will be affected in the future. Therefore, I commit myself to an action, however modest, and become a participant in the movement to conserve and protect Earth's natural resources.

Twenty-Twenty Pledge: By 2020 I pledge to do my best to:

- to reduce my personal consumption of fossil fuels by 20%
- to reduce the amount of stuff I waste and throw away by 20%
- to support my local economy by shopping closer to home and choosing more local products

Signed: _____ Date: _____