Where do I start?

*Start where you are, with what you have, and do what you can.*

Pick one thing, do it until it’s easy, then add another.

Where do you feel comfortable starting? There is no right answer, and it all adds up.

# Things you can do daily

* Look for, and share, the good news, positive action and things you’ve learned, to set a positive example
* Pick up rubbish on your walks, and share this with people, to set a positive example
* Plant trees at home, or volunteer to help a local group
* Grow fruit and veg in your garden, in your neighbourhood, or in a community garden, and share the bounty
* Buy fewer things
* Repair or mend or repurpose everything you can
* Buy second hand
* Look for sustainable substitutes to everyday things you can’t live without:
  + Bamboo toothbrush
  + Silk or bamboo floss
  + Shampoo and conditioner bars
  + Solid soap
  + Reusable sanitary products
  + Wash cloths
  + Hankies
  + Cloth nappies
  + Others? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Use reusable produce bags, along with your reusable shopping bags
* Bring your own containers to the butcher, deli or baker
* Bring a takeaway kit with you to avoid single use when eating out
  + Cup
  + Cutlery
  + Straw
  + Container
  + Water bottle
  + Others? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Shop in bulk or at a packaging-free shop
* Don’t buy veg wrapped in plastic
* Stop using single use anything
  + Plastic wrap
  + Zip lock bags
  + Makeup wipes
  + Serviettes
  + Paper plates
  + Plastic cutlery
  + Straws
  + Take-away cups
  + Bottled water
  + Soft drinks
  + Single-serve individually wrapped snacks… (buy in bulk and decant out as needed)
  + Others? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Consider the packaging when you shop
  + First, aim for no packaging
  + Then, reusable packaging
  + Then, compostable packaging (not just ‘degradable’ or ‘biodegradable’ – do your research!)
  + Finally, choose recyclable packaging
* Say ‘no’ to unnecessary things:
  + Straws
  + Receipts
  + Cutlery
  + Bags
  + Little sauce packets
  + Others? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Just DON’T use those ‘flushable wipes’ for your bottoms. Just don’t.
* Borrow books and DVDs from the library
* Join a toy library
* Learn about the recycling options in your community, and then set up a home recycling centre that makes it easier to recycle:
  + General waste
  + General recycling
  + Soft plastics
  + Batteries
  + Bottle tops
  + Other specialty items that may be collected by TerraCycle, your school or Landcare group
  + Recycling is a good place to start but a terrible place to stop – try to reduce the amount going into your bins every week
* Switch off standby power
* Install LED globes throughout your home
* Waste less food:
  + Meal plan
  + Shop to a list
  + Use what you have
  + Compost your scraps
  + Cook from scratch when you can
  + Others? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Eat less meat
* Be a responsible pet owner:
  + Sterilize your animals
  + Keep your pets indoors, especially at night
  + Consider not having a cat as a pet (if you live in Australia)
* Save water by:
  + Checking for and quickly repairing any leaks or drips
  + Having less lawn (or let it die when there’s no rain around)
  + Ensure your garden / veggie patch is watered efficiently, and use a timer
  + Have shorter showers
  + Catch your shower and laundry water and use to water your veggie patch
  + Use the half-flush

# Bigger things – home and community changes

* Create a community of people you can talk with and share, teach and guide each other. Write about your experiences. Talk about your climate grief.
* Look into ‘intentional living’ and ‘minimalism’ as starting points from which to examine your relationship with ‘stuff’ and your actual levels of ‘enough’. In as much as you can, live aligned with your values, and remember, you are so much more than a ‘consumer’ – you are more than the sum of your purchasing power.
* Reduce the amount you ‘gift’ – give experiences instead
* Join (or start) a library of things (or at least start sharing with your friends, family and neighbours)
* Move your money:
  + Switch banks to one that invests in sustainable/ethical businesses
  + Switch your Superfund to one that invests in sustainable/ethical businesses
  + Switch your power to renewable electricity from your provider
* Give to causes through time, money or advocacy that support:
  + Women and girls access to education, finance and voluntary contraception
  + Indigenous land management rights
  + Environmental technologies
  + Protecting our reefs and oceans
  + Disaster relief
  + Regenerative agriculture practices
  + Protection of forests, wetlands, coastal wetlands and peatlands
* When you have to buy new, buy items with high recycled content (not raw material extraction)
* Wherever possible, choose local products
* Learn about, and avoid, Palm Oil
* Support companies who create ethical/environmental products by purchasing of things you need from them, instead of the ‘big cheapies’
* Use your car less – use public transit, a bike or walk when you can
* Offset airline travel or big trips
* Plant trees to restore degraded farmland
* Ensure you have a water saving toilet
* Install water and energy efficient appliances as they need to be replaced
* Ensure your air conditioning units are professionally maintained
  + Consider smart thermostats
* Install rainwater tanks, greywater systems, and/or the new septics which allow water reuse
* Learn about solar passive home design, and adapt your home if possible
* Install insulation in your home
* Get double-glazed windows in your home (in SW WA, the South and West walls, especially)
  + Consider ‘smart glass’
* Install solar panels at your home
  + Add batteries if you can
  + And wind or geothermal, if you want to really take it up a notch!
* Invest in solar hot water, or at least a heat pump, when you change from electric or gas hot water

# The big ticket items – influence the system

* Have fewer kids
* Vote with the environment in mind
* Write to government about your concerns and demand environmental action and accountability
* Make comment on developments in your city (are they walkable, cycle-able, renewable/sustainable, energy efficient, water-sensitive, and have native standing vegetation retained)
* Write to big corporations about your concerns and demand environmental action and accountability
* Boycott big companies doing the wrong thing, or certain items that cause serious problems
* Protest things like fracking, oil & gas developments and government inaction
* Demand ‘right to repair’ legislation and corporate action
* Implement or support farming with Regenerative Agricultural practices (no till, rotational grazing, nutrient management, reduction of chemical inputs, water cycle management, native bush land restoration and protection, degraded land reclamation, etc.)
  + Choose sustainable growers, wherever possible
* Grow green rooftops
* When you do need a car, get a more efficient car (hybrid or electric) if you can