

# The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

## Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.



GENERAL DYNAMICS  
NASSCO

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

## Save Energy and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: NASSCO Sending the Message for a Healthier Planet

By Walter Camara, Professional Development Program

Did you know that saving energy can reduce Greenhouse gas emissions? The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas, etc) which are used to make electricity, increase carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations in our atmosphere. Scientists believe that these higher (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations are the cause of higher than normal temperatures because of the Greenhouse effect of trapping heat.

Everyday, we are using natural resources and producing waste. We put a great deal of strain on the Earth, so it's important for all of us to understand our impacts and learn what we can do to live more eco-friendly lives.



The average American household consumes over 100,000 gallons of water and generates over 22 tons of carbon dioxide each year. The United States is responsible for 21-percent of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide, yet we have less than 5-percent of the world's population. We can and must adopt a more eco-friendly way of living if we are to have a promising future.

To start, here is a list of changes you can make:

Get an energy audit of your house to find out where you can save. Poor insulation, leaks in windows and doors, and leaks in heating and cooling system ductwork can waste up to 20-percent of your home energy and produce excess carbon dioxide.

Appliances use up 1/3 of your household energy and produce large amounts of carbon dioxide. Depending on the age of your current appliances, installing a new Energy Star clothes washer or refrigerator can save hundreds of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Insulating your hot water heater and hot water piping can save almost 5-percent from your home energy bills. Depending on what your hot water fuel is, you can save nearly that much of your household carbon dioxide. Home heating and cooling systems release the most carbon dioxide outside of driving cars, even in cities where natural gas is the primary heating fuel.



Programmable thermostats can save hundreds of pounds of carbon dioxide a year, and typically pay for themselves in a year. Get low-flow shower and sink attachments to save water. These devices are cheap and can save you thousands of gallons of water each year. For example a low-flow shower head can save you up to 3,000 gallons of water per person per year.

Run appliances on cold water when possible. Using hot water is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions after driving cars and home heating/cooling. Switching from a hot/warm laundry wash to warm/cold can save as much as 20 gallons of hot water per load. Over a year, this could save several hundred pounds of carbon dioxide.

A third of California's energy usage also goes into moving water throughout the state. Think of all the pumps that are constantly pushing water into your taps, washers and sprinkler systems.

To save even more, consider switching from a typical car that gets 22 miles to the gallon to a hybrid that could save over 2½ tons of carbon dioxide per year or a biodiesel vehicle could save even more (4 tons plus).



Scientists estimate that stabilizing carbon emissions at the present rates for the next 50 years would avoid the most significant global warming impacts. Reductions above and beyond this would obviously help more. This level of reduction, although difficult, is obtainable using technologies either available today or in the near future. For additional information log on to flexyourpower.com.

