

50 Ways to CHANGE THE WORLD

Here are a few ideas on how you can take action and make a difference in your own community.

Energy & Climate Change

- Conduct an energy audit of your home or business.
- Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Buy or rent a hybrid car.
- Install solar water heaters or solar electric panels at your home or office.
- Buy a flexible-fuel car and fill your tank with gas that's 85% ethanol (run of the mill cars can use gas that's 10% ethanol).
- Buy energy-efficient appliances.
- Update your home or office energy management system with smart metering.
- Ask your utility company how you can buy clean, renewable power.
- Walk, bike or carpool to work.
- Donate to organizations that install renewable energy systems in developing countries.
- Calculate your carbon footprint, reduce your energy use, and then offset the rest with investments in clean energy.
- Demand action from your elected officials on climate change.

Global Health

- Create a health and wellness program in your office to generate awareness among co-workers.
- Stop smoking.
- Teach children about diet and exercise to prevent chronic disease.
- Get an annual physical.
- Get trained to perform first-level health services such as CPR.
- Volunteer at a local clinic.
- Provide or push for employee vaccinations (i.e., flu shots) and increases in employee health benefits.
- Donate to organizations that offer free immunizations for children in high-risk areas.
- Donate water sanitation equipment to organizations dedicated to clean water initiatives in developing areas.
- Donate WHO/UNICEF oral rehydration solution packets, which cost 6 cents each, to alleviate diarrhea-induced death among children.
- Walk or ride a bicycle to work to keep fit. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.
- Help health care organizations in your community deliver medical supplies and services to those in need.
- Contribute unused medical supplies to an organization that distributes them overseas.

Poverty Alleviation

- Donate leftover bulk food to a local shelter.
- Use Fair Trade coffee and other products.
- Start a program in your workplace to provide volunteer services.
- Donate used computers to schools and other organizations in need, locally or internationally.
- Offer your technical expertise to agencies that deliver emergency aid programs.
- Donate to microfinance programs that serve men and women in rural and developing areas.
- Support efforts to bring Internet and computers to rural areas.
- Start an exchange program designed to provide expertise and skills training.
- Volunteer for an organization that helps low-income workers enter the workforce.
- Launch a workplace program to raise funds for an effective NGO.
- Invest in income-generating agriculture projects in developing areas.
- Donate business clothing to an organization that distributes them to people in need who are entering the workforce.

Education

- Sponsor a scholarship for a child to attend school.
- Do an inservice in your school or community about education in developing countries.
- Donate funds to buy a school uniform or supplies for a child.
- Volunteer to help build a school abroad.
- Contact your legislative officials to advocate for funding for education, worldwide.
- Host a fund-raiser to support an NGO that helps educate children in a developing country.
- Develop a "sister school" relationship to support a school in a developing country.
- Donate to a school lunch program.
- Donate to UNHCR or other organizations working to provide education for children in conflict areas.
- Have your workplace sponsor a school.
- Join the Global Campaign for Education.
- Start a club at your school or in your community to support education for children.
- Sponsor teachers to attend professional development programs to improve the quality of education.