

Fresh Pond Voluntary Carbon Tax Pledge Form

I am making this voluntary carbon tax pledge in order to:

- Reflect my urgent concern for the earth,
- Act in common with others around this concern,
- Raise my awareness of my own energy usage and encourage myself to reduce it,
- Inform future decisions about energy use,
- Take a step in repairing damage done to the earth by energy use & act to reverse further climate change,
- Help to overcome any sense of powerlessness and isolation in addressing climate change.

The manner of determining the voluntary carbon tax is entirely up to you and probably will be different for all participants. You may calculate your actual carbon usage using the worksheet on the back of this form and apply a voluntary carbon tax rate per metric ton of carbon dioxide generated.

OR

You may include **any** or **all** of the categories suggested below. Examples might be:

for **gasoline**: X cents per mile traveled, or X cents per mile excluding work-related travel, or X cents per gallon purchased, or X percent of your actual cost, etc.

for **heating**: X cents per gallon of oil, or X percent of your heating bills, or if you rent and don't know the actual fuel cost, X percent of your *guess* about fuel cost, etc.

OR

You may pledge a **regular amount** each quarter or year.

The point is, you fill in the blanks with the method and amount left entirely up to you, but recorded here to make a clear and definite commitment. If it proves unworkable, you can submit a new form at any time with revisions.

An online calculator at <http://www.mounttobyfriends.org/gascal/gascal.html> may be helpful; it will let you experiment to see what your estimated tax would be using various methods.

I/we plan to include in my/our voluntary carbon tax the following carbon-using categories and methods:

Gasoline: _____

Heating where you live: _____

Electricity: _____

Public and other transportation (bus, plane, etc) _____

Other, which may be a regular amount each quarter or year. _____

I agree to calculate my carbon tax at the end of each quarter (or year) and give it to the Fresh Pond Voluntary Carbon Tax Fund. The Fresh Pond Earthcare group will distribute the money raised at least once a year after consulting with participants on how to allocate the funds raised. The Earthcare Group will also make regular reports to VoluntaryCarbonTax.org.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____

Please keep a copy of this pledge as a reminder of your commitment formula. More information is available from <http://VoluntaryCarbonTax.org/>

Carbon Usage Calculator

For period _____ to _____

The following information will allow you to calculate how much carbon dioxide you generate in your home.

Home Heating

Home Heating Oil: _____ gallons used X 10.15 = _____ kg of CO2

Natural Gas: _____ therms used X 5.48 = _____ kg of CO2

Electricity _____ net kwh used X 0.2893 = _____ kg of CO2
If you have solar panels, subtract your kwh generated from your usage.

Transportation

Automobile 1 _____ miles traveled ÷ _____ mpg for your car X 8.91 = _____ kg of CO2

Automobile 2 _____ miles traveled ÷ _____ mpg for your car X 8.91 = _____ kg of CO2
An on-line search for your year and model of car will give you the EPA mileage figures.

Bus _____ passenger miles X 0.055 = _____ kg of CO2

Commuter Rail _____ passenger miles X 0.170 = _____ kg of CO2

Subway _____ passenger miles X 0.121 = _____ kg of CO2

Amtrak _____ passenger miles X 0.137 = _____ kg of CO2

Airplane
< 300 miles _____ passenger miles X 0.250 = _____ kg of CO2

>=300 < 2300 miles _____ passenger miles X 0.155 = _____ kg of CO2

>= 2300 miles _____ passenger miles X 0.166 = _____ kg of CO2

Total kg of CO2 _____ kg of CO2
(divide by 1000 to get metric tons.)

My voluntary carbon tax \$ _____

Air Travel conversion factors from epa.gov. All others from carbonfund.org

The proposals for a carbon tax in Massachusetts start at either \$10 or \$20 a metric ton and go up \$5 a metric ton per year to a maximum of \$40 a metric ton.