

## 3. SCRUB-A-DUB TUB

### Reducing Water Used for Washing Dishes

#### WHY ACT?

Each time you run your dishwasher, you produce approximately two pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. Hand-washing dishes inefficiently can use up to 15 gallons of hot water or almost 3 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per dish-washing. Through greater dishwashing efficiency you can reduce your CO<sub>2</sub> footprint in this area by 25% or more.

#### CO<sub>2</sub> REDUCTION ACTION

- Dishwasher: Run only when you have a full load. Scrape off food, but don't rinse dishes before loading. Use the energy-saving setting to dry dishes ("air dry" rather than "heat dry").
- Hand-washing: Wash dishes in a tub of hot soapy water. Fill a second tub for rinsing dishes.
- Make sure your kitchen faucet has an aerator. Aerators reduce water flow by about 25% and produce a water stream that is every bit as good for washing dishes, hands, or fruits and vegetables.

*Note:* When it's time to replace your dishwasher, buy Energy Star®. Information about Energy Star® dishwashers can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

#### TIME & MATERIALS

- You will save time through greater efficiency in your dishwashing.
- Sink, tub, dishwasher, biodegradable dishwashing soap.

#### GOAL

If you use a dishwasher, reduce dishwasher use by one load per week, and avoid using the "heat dry" setting to dry your dishes. For hand-washing, always wash dishes in one basin and rinse in a second basin.

#### CO<sub>2</sub> CREDIT

*Note:* Check the box as you take each action.

- For reducing dishwasher use by one load per week, credit yourself 175 pounds of avoided CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- For minimizing hot water use in hand dishwashing, credit yourself with 125 pounds of avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually.
- Bonus: If you have an Energy Star® dishwasher or plan to buy one within a year, credit yourself an additional 100 pounds of annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings.

