

Take Action!

Making small changes
can help all of us.

We all know it is important
to have a healthy
environment to provide us
with clean air, water and
food. Now is the time to
think about the choices you
make each day and the
long-term impact those
choices have on our local
and global environment.

You can make simple
changes in the way you live
that will benefit our
environment and can save
you money! Please make
thoughtful decisions about
what and how much you
consume, and the waste and
pollution you generate.



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Go Green!

**21 Energy
Conservation
Tips For
Homeowners
And Guests**



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In your home

- 1. Use energy efficient bulbs when possible.** Use LED and compact fluorescent bulbs when possible. Where you MUST use incandescent bulbs, use one 100-watt bulb instead of two 60-watt bulbs and you'll use 17 percent less power.
- 2. Replace older appliances.** Buy new, more efficient, Energy Star appliances. To dispose of old appliances, bring them to a salvage yard. You may even get some money for that old appliance.
- 3. Check your refrigerator's temperature and seal.** Your refrigerator temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees F; your freezer between 0 and 5 degrees. Clean your refrigerator condenser coils twice a year. It may be time to replace the gasket or shop for a new Energy Star refrigerator! Also, try to empty and unplug that extra freezer or refrigerator you have in the basement or garage.
- 4. Use the dishwasher.** Doing a full load in your Energy Star dishwasher is far more efficient than washing the same load by hand. By using less hot water, you save on heating water and the water itself, 4 gallons of water by dishwasher vs. 24 gallons of water by hand.
- 5. Go from scalding to hot.** Turn your water heater setting down from the standard 140 degrees F to 120 degrees. Not only will you save dollars, it may reduce mineral buildup and corrosion, prolonging the life of your water heater.
- 6. Take a shower.** Use less hot water by taking short showers instead of baths. Install water saving showerheads and faucets.

21 Energy Conservation Tips

- 7. Recycle.** Recycling is a must! But, it takes an enormous amount of energy to recycle plastic, glass, aluminum and paper. Consider product packaging. Buy in bulk and choose refillable products.
- 8. Insulate.** Consider adding more insulation in your attic and walls. Electric outlets and switches should be insulated too. Replace older windows and doors with ones that are newer, more energy efficient.
- 9. Adjust your thermostat.** By moving your thermostat up even 2 degrees in the summer and down 2 degrees in the winter, you can drastically reduce emissions and save on electricity.
- 10. Clean your clothes dryer lint trap and vent.** Clean the dryer lint trap after each load of laundry and remember to clean your outside dryer exhaust vent monthly. Keeping both traps clear of lint will reduce drying time.
- 11. Wash clothes in cold water.** Washing clothes in cold water eliminates using hot water from the water heater, saving you dollars for electric and/or gas.
- 12. Replace filters.** Clean or replace air conditioner and furnace filters every three months. A clean filter maximizes the longevity of your furnace or air conditioner and minimizes your energy bills.
- 13. Pull the plug.** Unplug electronics when you're not using them. Appliances and gizmos that are turned off, may still be consuming electricity in "standby" mode. Unplug battery chargers, power tools, clocks and other electronics when not in use.
- 14. Ban bottled water.** Even if you recycle plastic water bottles, the recycling process consumes energy. Add a filter to your kitchen faucet or buy a filtering water pitcher to keep cold water on hand. Bring your filtered tap water along with you in an insulated, reusable container.
- 15. Think reusable, not disposable.** From styrofoam coffee cups and napkins to toilet bowl brushes and dust cloths, reusable products have less negative impact on the environment. Reassess your habits and household products.

Out and about



- 16. Consume fewer plastic bags.** Bring your own cloth bags to the store or, for a small purchase, tell the cashier you don't need a bag. Be sure to recycle plastic bags when you do get them.
- 17. Buy fewer electronic gizmos.** Old, used batteries create toxic, non-recyclable waste. Say no to battery-operated toys, games, and toothbrushes. Rediscover rechargeable batteries when you must have that battery operated gizmo.
- 18. Dispose of electronics properly.** Find out how to properly dispose of batteries, iPods, cell phones, calculators and other electronics so they don't leak toxins into our water supplies. Donate your computers and cell phones to nonprofit organizations.
- 19. Buy locally grown and made products.** The environmental impact of packaging and transporting products is huge. A large part of the money spent goes to processors, packagers, shippers, advertisers and retailers and little trickles down to the farmers or producers. Buy produce at farmers' markets and nearby farm stands.
- 20. Reduce paper use.** Receive bills and printed material electronically. Think before you print documents and photos. When printing is necessary, use recycled paper and print on both sides.
- 21. Drive less and drive smarter.** When walking or biking are impossible, plan your car use wisely. Can you complete all your errands in one or two weekly trips? If you carefully plan your trip and route you can cut down on pollution, save gas and reduce auto maintenance costs. Aggressive driving with quick accelerating and braking uses more gas. Lighten the cargo weight of your car by cleaning out the trunk and keep your tires inflated properly.



For more energy saving ideas visit the
U.S. Department of Energy website to read their
"Energy Saver's Brochure."
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/>

By following these 21 tips you can help all of us! Go Green!