



HOW TO GO GREEN IN WOODBRIDGE...

In today's world, living a "green" lifestyle is no longer a luxury... if we are to provide our children with a secure future, we must start now to better manage the ways we use energy and other natural resources at work and home.

"Greenable Woodbridge" targets nearly every aspect of "going green" and provides easy-to-use information on some of the easy first steps we can all take to establish Woodbridge Township as a leader in sustainable living. Working together, we can put into place programs and practices that benefit residents and businesses alike — while reducing energy consumption and expense throughout our Township.

"Greenable Woodbridge" offers simple, easy-to-accomplish, day-to-day suggestions on how you – as a Woodbridge Township resident – can contribute to a more "Greenable Woodbridge." To get you started we're featuring a list of things you can do every day to help reduce your environmental impact, save money, and live a happier, healthier life (courtesy WorldWatch Institute).

Save energy, Save Money

- *Set your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter and a few degrees higher in the summer to save on heating and cooling costs;*
- *Install compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs);*
- *Unplug appliances when not in use.. or, use a smart power strip that senses when appliances are off and cuts "phantom" energy use;*
- *Wash clothes in cold water... up to 85 percent of energy used to machine-wash clothes goes to hot water;*
- *Use a drying rack or clothesline to save energy. If you use a dryer, consider adding dryer balls to cut drying time.*

Save Water... Save Money

- *Shorter showers reduce water use and lower water and heating bills;*
- *Install low-flow showerheads... they don't cost much and the water and energy savings can quickly pay back the investment;*
- *Use a faucet aerator on every faucet. .. aerator's are inexpensive, conserve heat and water, while keeping water pressure high;*
- *Plant drought-resistant and native plants that require minimal watering.*

Less Gas = More Money (and better health!)

- *Walk or bike to work if possible... saves on gas and parking costs while improving cardiovascular health and reducing risk of obesity*
- *Consider telecommuting if you live far from your work.*

Eat Smart.

- *If you eat meat, add one meatless meal a week to reduce grocery expenses;*
- *Buy locally produced foods, including meats, dairy and produce whenever possible... purchasing from local farmers keeps money in the local economy.*

Skip the Bottled Water

- *Use a water filter to purify tap water instead of buying bottled water. Not only is bottled water expensive, but it generates large amounts of waste;*
- *Bring a reusable water bottle, preferably aluminum rather than plastic, when traveling or at work*

Think Before Buying

- *Go online to find new or gently used secondhand products;*
- *Check out garage sales, thrift stores, and consignment shops for clothing and other everyday items*

Borrow Instead of Buy

- *Use the Library for books and movies... The Library saves money, not to mention the ink and paper that goes into printing new books;*
- *Share power tools and other appliances with friends and neighbors.*

Buy Smart

- *Buy in bulk... purchasing food from bulk bins can save money and packaging;*
- *Wear clothes that don't need to be dry-cleaned... this saves money and cuts down on toxic chemical use;*
- *Invest in high-quality, long-lasting products. You may pay more now, but you'll be happy when you don't have to replace items as frequently (and this means less waste!).*

Recycle Electronics

- *Keep cell phones, computers, and other electronics as long as possible;*
- *Donate or recycle electronic items responsibly when the time comes (electronic waste contains mercury and other toxics and is a growing environmental problem).*

Make Your Own Cleaning Supplies

- *Making your own cleaning products saves money, time, and packaging... not to mention improving indoor air quality.*