

We have not inherited the earth from our ancestors; we are borrowing it from our children.

*Native American proverb*

In order to leave a healthy planet to future generations, we all need to "green up our act."

Our everyday actions can have a big impact on the quality of our air and water supplies, the health of our natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.



## Did you know?

You can run a TV for six hours on the amount of electricity that is saved by recycling just one aluminum can.



The average American home emits twice as much carbon dioxide as the average U.S. Vehicle.



Although disposable plastic water bottles are recyclable, 90% of the 14 million water bottles sold in the U.S. in 2002 wound up in the trash.



Shoppers worldwide use 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags per year. This translates to about 150 bags a year for every person on earth. Remember to bring your own!



About 8 million tons of trees are destroyed each year just to produce catalogs. To remove your name from most major catalog mailing lists, go to [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org).

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# GREEN THIS HOUSE

*14 Easy Fixes for Your  
Earth-Friendly Home*



Whether your home is old or new, you can reduce your carbon footprint and conserve resources without spending a lot. In fact, you'll save money in the long run.

## SAVE ENERGY

### Change a light—change the world

Changing just 5 lights in your home to compact fluorescent bulbs can save you up to \$100 on electricity. If every American household did it, we could prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to over 8 million cars.



### Plug up the leaks

Most homes leak so much heated or cooled air, it's like leaving a 3' x 3' window open all year round. Caulk gaps around windows, add weather stripping around doors and add insulation in the attic to achieve big energy savings and make your home more comfortable.

### Programmable thermostats

Installing programmable thermostats with 4 settings for different times of day can easily save you up to \$150 per year on your heating bills.

### Choose Energy Star

Energy Star appliances meet a high level of energy efficiency that can translate to over \$50 per year savings on energy bills for each appliance



### Home energy analysis

Find out how your home is wasting energy and what you can do to fix it. Look for the free, online do-it-yourself home energy analysis at [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).

### Power strips

To keep devices from using power when they're turned off, plug them into a power strip and turn it off when not in use.

## SAVE WATER

### Fix drips

A dripping faucet can waste up to 2000 gallons of water per year. That's money down the drain!

### Go with the flow

Low-flow fixtures are inexpensive and save a lot of water. Low-flow shower heads save 3 to 4 gallons per minute. And replacing an old toilet with a low-flow model will save 3 to 4 gallons per flush.

### Green landscaping

Your yard and garden can be beautiful while still conserving water.

- Choose native plants that require less watering, fertilizer and pesticides that pollute the storm water that runs off your yard.
- Compost fallen leaves and other yard waste to make free, nature-friendly fertilizer.
- Minimize impervious surfaces such as patios, decks and driveways that don't allow rainwater to be absorbed into the ground.
- Encourage natural rainwater absorption with rain gardens, swales and vernal pools that capture or slow runoff and allow it to sink in.

### Pennies from heaven

Why pay for water to irrigate your garden when you can catch the water that falls from the sky in a rain barrel positioned under your downspout.



## SAVE THE PLANET

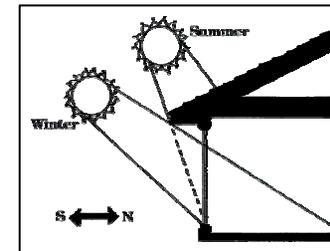
### Plant trees

Well placed trees in your yard provide natural air conditioning. Their shade keeps your home cooler in the summer. And in winter they shield your home from the cold north wind. Trees also fight global warming by absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere. And trees supply habitat for birds, beneficial insects and other animals.



### Passive heating

In winter, let the sun shine in your south-facing windows during daylight hours. Then close shades and windows when temperatures drop at night; absorbed heat in the walls and floors will continue to help heat the house.



### Passive cooling

During the summer, when the sun is higher in the sky, keep your home cool naturally by adding shades or awnings to keep sunlight out.

### Explore renewable energy

Consider harnessing the power of the sun or wind to help power and heat your home. You can cut your energy bills dramatically and do your part to reduce our country's dependence on energy from nonrenewable fuels and CO2-emitting power plants. Check out the rebates and incentives available through NJ's Board of Public Utilities at [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).