

## **Some Popular and Simple Environmental Tips**

- Make your home an Energy Star! When you do home maintenance, also do a home energy audit to find out how you can save money by making your home more energy efficiency.
- Keep an eye on ENERGY STAR ratings! The higher, the better! Saves on utility expenses and may provide a tax credit ([http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax\\_credits.tx\\_index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index)).
- Turning off the water while you're brushing your teeth can save gallons of water! Consider installing low flow faucets, toilets, and shower heads.
- Don't be a drip - fix that leak! Leaky faucets can waste thousands of gallons of water each year, like money down the drain. Repair or replace old or damaged fixtures. If you're not sure you have a leak, check the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- Make it a full load! The average washing machine uses 40.9 gallons of water per load. If you buy a new washer, shop for a high-efficiency washer that needs less than 28 gallons of water per load. To achieve even greater savings, wash only full loads of laundry or be sure to choose the appropriate load size on the washing machine.
- Don't trash it - reuse it! Be creative as you look for new ways to reduce the amount or kinds of household waste. Give cardboard tubes to pet hamsters or gerbils. Plant seeds in an egg carton. Make a flower pot out of a plastic ice cream tub. By thinking creatively, you will often find new uses for common items and new ways to recycle and reduce waste.
- Recycle the rechargeable batteries from older devices.
- Use public transportation when possible or share rides!
- During hot weather, don't top off your gas tank. Refuel your car or truck in the early morning or the evening when it's cooler. A small fuel spill may not seem like much, but every spill evaporates and adds to air pollution, and fuel pumps with vapor recovery systems can feed a spill back into their tanks - after you paid for it. So, in hot weather - don't top off!
- Buy food from local farms or plant a garden! Want some free seeds? <http://www.annies.com/root>
- Plant some trees. Near free trees: <http://www.arborday.org/shopping/memberships/memberships.cfm>