



Top 10 "Green" Tips

1. **Switch it up.** About 35 percent of all electricity produced is used to run homes. Save money and reduce carbon pollution by "switching it up" – try enjoying natural sunlight instead of overhead lights; remember to flip off the light switch when leaving a room; switch your appliances altogether to those with the ENERGY STAR label, which sip electricity instead of guzzle it.
2. **Ask a riddle.** How many families does it take to change a light bulb (and change a world)? If every family in the U.S. replaced one regular light bulb with an energy saving model, it would reduce global warming pollution by more than 90 billion pounds, the same as taking 7.5 million cars off the road.
3. **Stay young.** A typical 1700 sq. ft. wood-frame home requires the equivalent of clear cutting one-acre of forest. Avoid wood products from old-growth forests; instead choose materials from sustainably-managed forests that have the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification.
4. **Quit the drip.** Global Warming is predicted to play havoc with the world's water cycle, causing greater droughts and floods and making water conservation essential; in many places, pumping water long distances also requires large amounts of electricity. A small leak from a faucet can waste 50 gallons of water a day and a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day.
5. **Make laundry cool.** Washing machines use 30 to 60 gallons of water for the wash cycle. Use cold water instead of hot, and wash only full loads of clothes and dishes.
6. **Catch a ride.** Personal transportation is responsible for 30 to 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, 33 percent of toxic water pollution and more than 45 percent of toxic air emissions.
7. **Keep it in check.** Clean oil and properly inflated tires increase fuel mileage up to 15 percent. Nearly a third of all light trucks and SUVs on the road have at least one under-inflated tire.
8. **Make learning easier.** Attention to site planning and adequate daylighting have been shown to heighten student performance by as much as 25 percent and operating costs for energy and water can be reduced by 20 to 40 percent. Green schools can help students learn and save money.
9. **Seed a solution.** As few as 20 trees can offset the pollution from a car driven 60 miles per day and green spaces, like parks, can help counter the heat island effect that causes urban centers to be two to 10 degrees hotter than nearby rural areas.
10. **Talk back.** Urge political and community leaders to inventory current environmental policies and programs, adopt green programs for city projects and set green building standards.

