

Going Green



For Your Building: Energy efficiency

Do your own energy audit of your building - Check around doors, windows, and other areas that may feel drafty. Use caulk, weather stripping, door sweeps, plastic, and other appropriate means to close off these leaks.

Take advantage of Mother Nature - Open blinds and curtains on the south side of the building when the sun is shining and close them as soon as the sun goes down to retain the solar heat in the winter. Do the opposite in the summer. Use curtains made from heavy fabric with lots of folds. Up to 15% of your heating and air conditioning can escape through unprotected windows.

Install a programmable thermostat and use it - Set it to lower the temperature at night and whenever the building is unoccupied. Lowering your thermostat by 10 degrees at night can reduce your heating bill by 10 to 20 percent. Lower the temperature during the day by a few degrees. Lowering the thermostat by just one degree in the winter (or raising it in the summer) can save up to 3% in heating costs.

Perform regular maintenance on your furnace, heat pump, and air conditioner to keep it in top operating condition - Dirty filters reduce airflow, making your equipment work harder and use more energy. Replace your furnace and air conditioner filter monthly unless it is a high efficiency filter designed to last several months. Tune your unit regularly.

Clean Green: Save money and the environment



Carpets – Use club soda on small carpet stains. Use baking soda and crushed lavender or basil for carpet freshener.

Bathrooms – For everyday toilet cleaning, sprinkle lemon juice and baking soda and let it sit. For more thorough toilet cleaning, spray vinegar, sprinkle with baking soda, and scrub. Use baking soda, water, and a little elbow grease to clean sinks.

Glass/Windows – Mix 1/2 cup vinegar with a gallon of water, spray, and wipe. Use straight up lemon juice or club soda. If you use club soda then newspaper is the best scrubber to use. If you use lemon juice then use an old lint free cloth.

Furniture Polish – Mix one cup of olive oil with 1/2 cup lemon juice in a clean, new spray bottle. Make sure to shake well before use. Spray on your cleaning cloth and wipe furniture. Use another clean cloth to polish the surface.

Recycle: Think outside of the box



Paper — Re-use paper that has only been printed on one side to print drafts or temporary information or use as scratch paper.

Packing materials and newspapers — Donate packaging material to small, home-based businesses that do a lot of packing and shipping (such as e-bay sellers). Place an add on Craigslist or Freecycle and arrange for weekly or monthly pickup.

Batteries — Replace your alkaline batteries with environmentally friendly, rechargeable batteries that last longer and can be used over and over. You will save a substantial amount of money and reduce excess waste in our landfills.

Plastic Storage Bags – Wash out plastic storage bags and re-use them. You will not only save money but you save the earth as well. Plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose in a landfill.

Certified Organic Products in Recyclable Containers — Certified organic products are biodegradable and don't contain toxic synthetic chemicals which harm our planet and wildlife when they are washed down the drain and into our rivers and streams.

Concentrated Products — On average, 16% of the money spent on a product pays for the cost of packaging. Buying concentrated products prevents the purchase of unnecessary packaging and reduces waste.



Resources: For more information

The US EPA Green Building Homepage <http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/index.htm>

The Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life's 100 Ways to Save the Environment <http://www.seql.org/100ways.cfm>

Web Ecoist 25 Essential Green Tools, Apps, and Resources <http://webecoist.com/2008/09/10/green-web-tools-apps-and-resources/>

National Geographic's Green Guide for Everyday Living <http://www.thegreenguide.com/>

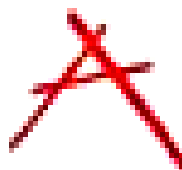
Shift Your Habit <http://shiftyourhabit.com/>

Greener Trends <http://www.greenertrends.com/>

AltUse.com <http://www.altuse.com/index.html>

Consumer Reports Eco-label Center <http://www.greenerchoices.org/eco-labels/>

For questions, comments, or more information:
Suzanne Baschieri
sbaschieri@alliancelibrarysystem.com
309-694-9200 X 2109



Alliance Library System
600 High Point Lane
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-694-9200
Alliancelibrarysystem.com