



United City of Yorkville  
800 Game Farm Road  
Yorkville, Illinois, 60560  
Telephone: 630-553-4350  
Fax: 630-553-7575

### **I Care for the Earth**

*A check list to help reduce energy consumption*

**Submitted by: Anne Engelhardt, Yorkville Green Committee**

You can reduce your energy consumption by just changing a few of your daily habits. Below is a list of energy saving tips to incorporate into your everyday activities.

#### **Energy Consumption Tips and Guidelines**

- Make fewer trips by combining errands and fewer miles by planning the driving route
- Walk/ride a bicycle to destinations when possible
- Use public transportation (traveling in larger groups) - bus, train, etc
- Car pool when possible
- Drive a hybrid, electric, or other alternative fuel vehicle
- Use CFLs or LEDs to replace energy grabbing incandescent bulbs
- Cooling: Thermostat - set above 76 degrees in summer; avoid use of AC as much as possible
- Heating: Thermostat - set below 70 in winter; open the doors to outside as infrequently as possible
- Turn off water when brushing teeth
- Turn off lights when not in room; turn off all unneeded lights
- Unplug appliances when not in use (Examples: electronic chargers, curling iron, hair dryer, blender, toaster, etc).
- Give away or sell your extra freezer or refrigerator, especially if used minimally
- Seal or re-seal doors and windows; replace poorly fit windows or doors
- Purchase appliances with the Energy Star label
- Use Solar-Powered lights, such as landscaping lights, or panels to power other appliances
- Paint with low VOC products
- Turn off television and computer when finished using
- To save paper
  - ✓ Do on-line payments; request companies to send statements quarterly or yearly
  - ✓ Purchase larger sizes (less packaging)
  - ✓ Read the news on-line (cancel newspaper subscriptions)
  - ✓ Unsubscribe to unwanted catalogs and other junk mail
- To save trees - purchase and use alternatives, such as bamboo
- Eat as much local produce as possible; grow produce at home
- Request foil - not Styrofoam boxes - for leftovers from restaurants; explain the reason to the manager
- Eliminate the use of all plastic drink bottles and paper or Styrofoam cups
- Use a stainless steel or plastic thermos or mug
- Avoid putting old things in the garbage - Use websites to sell your things or donate your things to organizations that can utilize them ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com) and [www.frecycle.com](http://www.frecycle.com)).

## **RECYCLE**

- All paper, including mail, advertisements, newspaper. Also keep a separate bin or wastebasket especially for paper
- Aluminum cans
- Metal
- Glass (jars, bottles)
- Plastics (#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7)
- Cardboard (packaging; boxes)
- Chipboard (food boxes, paper towel rolls, toilet tissue rolls)
- Plastic bags - bring to participating stores, such as WalMart, Jewel, etc.
- Batteries
- Ink jets
- Cell phones
- Electronic waste (computers, stereos, DVD and CD players, televisions, etc.)
- Cooking scraps (includes fruits, vegetables, egg shells, coffee grounds and tea bags, bread, crackers, etc.)
- Compost: Yard and plants / leaves; Cut up and use as a mulch or compost in your yard
- No burning

## **DONATE**

- Donate money or time to environmental organizations
- SCARCE in Glen Ellyn accepts donated books for kindergarteners up to grade 12 (for information to go [www.bookrescue.org/default.asp](http://www.bookrescue.org/default.asp)) or donate your used books to local used books sales or the Yorkville Public Library, 902 Game Farm Road.

## **REUSE**

- Use recyclable shopping bags instead of plastic. Keep recyclable clothing shopping bags under your front seat—a place that you will easily see them and be reminded to take them into the stores with you.
- Comics for wrapping paper
- Old envelopes for messages to school/ or for organizing receipts or other household business papers
- Use the second side of paper for computer printing or cut it up for phone messages
- Use containers in lunch boxes to reduce the amount of food wrap
- Take a re-usable lunch box or lunch bag, which can last for many years
- Clothes— Give away all unwanted clothes and shoes (garage sales, rummage sales, thrift shops, Goodwill, Salvation Army, Purple Heart, Vietnam Vets, Am Vets, Wayside Cross)

## **RETHINK**

- Your consumption of “STUFF”
- Ask yourself: Do I NEED this or WANT this?
- Ask yourself: Where will this thing be in a week, a month, six months, or a year from now?
- Ask yourself: How often will I use or appreciate this thing?
- How will my life be changed if I do not have this thing?