



August 2009 Conservation Board

Reducing Waste on Summer Vacation

Before you leave home, adjust the air conditioning and water heater thermostats to conserve energy.

Rather than buying small, travel sized toiletries, fill reusable containers with shampoo, soap, and other necessities.

Reuse plastic or paper shopping bags to pack items for your trip and recycle them afterwards. Plastic bags are perfect for keeping dirty shoes and wet bathing suits separate from other items in your suitcase, while paper bags are great for packing snacks for the car.

On the road

When you leave your hotel room, switch off the air conditioning, lights and TV to reduce energy use.

While on your trip, remember to take only the amount of products that you need from restaurants and lodgings. Take only napkins, condiment packets, free brochures, maps or coupons that you will actually use.

Take along plastic bags to collect your used beverage containers for recycling at rest stops.

When traveling by car or RV, make sure the vehicle is well maintained-this improves fuel economy which prevents pollution and saves you money.

When visiting beaches or parks, be sure to take out everything you bring in, so that you leave places uncluttered and undisturbed.

If staying in a hotel, check the bedding and linen policy with housekeeping. Some hotels ask that the customer request the linens be laundered by putting a specific note card on the bed and leaving the towels on the floor. This practice conserves water resources. If your hotel does not follow this practice, use a comment card to ask them to adopt it.

Courtesy of: www.epa.gov

RetractionRetractionRetractionRetraction

I have been informed by a prominent plumber, who is also an avid fan of the Conservation Board Newsletter, of some misinformation in the July issue.

The coffee article on Page 1: "Please do not put coffee grounds down your drains as it will eventually cause a clog". I myself have not tried it but let's not take any chances!

Green Gardening Tips

- *Nix the poisons and layer on some all natural compost instead.
- *Compost can be made from kitchen scraps. Use your vegetable waste instead of letting it be hauled off to a landfill. Known as "gardener's gold" compost enriches soil fertility by giving it a shot of high powered plant loving nutrients.
- *Buying organic produce can get pricey so how about growing your own instead. It's time to return to the use of gardens as food sources-you won't find fresher (or cheaper) eating anywhere else.
- *Urban dwellers don't fret. You can get in on the hoeing and growing by signing up for a plot at your local community garden.
- *Provide a pesticide free sanctuary for our pollinator pals, such as butterflies and bees by growing a variety of native flowers they are particularly drawn to, such as milkweed, goldenrod and sweet pepperbush.
- *Hang some nesting boxes, put out some birdseeds and allow birds to nest in an area near your garden. Didn't you know that birds can eat pests like snails and slugs? No chemicals required. For more on green gardening tips go to: www.planetgreen.com and www.associatedcontent.com.



DID YOU KNOW

Green Terminology

3R's-In the world of green, the standard for Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Biodegradable-a material that breaks down with the assistance of microorganisms.

Bioaccumulation-where toxins taken up by plants and animals from their environment become concentrated in body tissues.

Biodiversity-the scope of different living things within an area-the plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms and the ecosystems they are part of.

Degradable-a material that breaks down through chemical reactions rather than through the activity of microorganisms.

Climate change-most commonly means a rapid variation in the Earth's global climate due to human activity induced global warming.

Co2-chemical shorthand for carbon dioxide-the greenhouse gas that is contributing greatly to global warming.

Compostable-a material that breaks down to become what is effectively dirt. It contains no toxins and can support plant life.

Eco-savvy-someone who is environmentally aware.

Ecosystem-the physical and biological elements of an area co-existing to form a self supporting environment.

Emissions-usually used in reference to exhaust or greenhouse gases or carbon dioxide production as a byproduct of human activity.

Flat pack-an increasingly popular way of producing goods that the end user assembles. The unfinished product takes up far less space, so more can be shipped-saving fuel and emissions.

Courtesy of www.greenlivingtips.com

To be continued.....next issue.

Town Board

Don Peters, Town Supervisor

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Back to School-GO GREEN!

We can almost hear the groans of millions of schoolchildren all across America as they trudge back across school grounds. What are the future leaders of tomorrow packing in their book bags? According to Treehugger.com the following are some steps in the right direction.

- ◆ Hybrid Backpacks incorporate leftover aluminum and rubber materials along with recycled polyester and foam to make very attractive looking wearables.
- ◆ Brown paper bags encourage deforestation, while vinyl lunch boxes contain lead. What's a parent to do? Try a waterproof neoprene lunch bag-they are insulated to keep food hot or cold, and are slick looking to boot.
- ◆ Three ring binders, or Rebinders are available. Made from sturdy corrugated cardboard with 35 to 38 percent post consumer recycled material. Rebinders are completely recyclable.
- ◆ A nontoxic, non-solvent and acid free glue is available. The almond scented paste even tastes like marzipan (If you are into that sort of thing, that is) Also comes in the form of glue sticks for portability.
- ◆ Also available are 100 percent post-consumer recycled notebooks, sketchbooks, journals and notepads, which are made with biodegradable vegetable-based dyes. This particular paper mill mentioned on Treehugger.com even functions on landfill-gas-generated power.

For information on the above products go to www.treehugger.com



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