



# Fall 2009 Conservation Board

## Energy Quiz

How much do you know about energy use in your home?

1. What are the two biggest uses of energy in your house?
2. What uses more electricity: leaving a light on all day or playing a video game for two hours?
3. Which of these activities uses the most electricity?
  - A. Using the computer
  - B. Vacuuming
  - C. Making coffee
  - D. Washing clothes
4. How much hot water does the average family of four use every day?
  - A. 50 gallons
  - B. 75 gallons
  - C. 105 gallons
  - D. 140 gallons
5. True or False: When a power line falls to the ground, the electricity is cut off and the line is no longer dangerous.
6. How much can you reduce your lighting bill by switching from incandescent to fluorescent bulbs?
7. Which uses more electricity—washing clothes in hot water or drying clothes in an electric dryer?
8. Which activity uses more hot water: taking showers or taking baths?

Courtesy of [www.getenergysmart.org](http://www.getenergysmart.org)

The answers are found on page 2

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### Fun Fact

Rule of Thumb for thermostat savings: For each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you can save about 3 percent on your heating.

## NASCAR Emissions Mitigation

Last month, NASCAR announced the “NASCAR Clean Green Air” program, to capture emissions produced by racing. Under a pilot program that will expand significantly next year, NASCAR will plant 10 new trees for each green flag\* that drops during a Cup Series events.

The tracks participating in the tree planting program—11 this year and every venue visited by the Cup Series in 2010—will mitigate 100 percent of the carbon emissions produced by the race cars competing in their Cup Series events

The 43 cars in each race have about 800 horsepower, use 105 octane racing gasoline, and run at speeds up to 200 mph from 300 to 600 miles per race. (No catalytic converters, mufflers, etc) Each car will easily wear out many sets of racing tires. No source was given for the calculations.

\* This can be 1-10 times or more in a race

Courtesy of [www.NASCAR.com](http://www.NASCAR.com)

### Some Energy (and Money) Saving Tips for the Home

Switch to a laptop instead of a using a desktop and cut three-quarters off your electrical use. Be sure to turn off the laptop at the end of the day.

Switch to cold water washing and you can save 80 percent on energy used for laundry and an estimated \$60 a year. Hang dry your clothes instead of using the dryer and save 700 pounds of CO2 a year.

Use public transportation whenever possible, carpool, shop locally and, ideally, switch to a hybrid or energy-efficient car.

Turn off the lights when you aren't using them and reduce your direct lighting energy use by 45 percent.

[www.care2.com](http://www.care2.com)



## DID YOU KNOW

### Green Terminology

**Fossil Fuel**-any hydrocarbon deposit used for fuel such as oil, coal and natural gas. These are called "fossil" fuels as it takes many years for them to be created in the natural environment.

**Free Range**-is a method of farming where animals are permitted to roam freely rather than being confined in an enclosure.

**Global Warming**-the increase in the average temperature of our planet's air and ocean temperature largely due to human influences.

**GMO (or just GM)**-a genetically modified organism whose genetic structure has been artificially altered through the introduction of genes not normally found in that organism.

**Greenhouse gas**-any of a number of atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse (warming) effect of our atmosphere.

**Greywater**-effluent from the shower, bath, sinks, and washing machines. Does not contain sewage.

**Heavy Metal**-a poisonous metal, including lead and mercury that builds up in the tissues of organisms.

**Herbicide**-any chemical agent that kills or inhibits plant growth.

**IPCC**-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. An international organization established to investigate climate change, its potential impacts and options for reducing risk.

**Landfill**-an area where household trash or industrial waste is buried in the ground.

**LED**-Light emitting Diode-becoming more common as a replacement for traditional incandescent lighting.

**Organic food**-plants grown without conventional pesticides, artificial fertilizers or sewage and processed without food additives. Food products from animals have not been subjected to routine antibiotics or growth hormones.

**Recycle**-to extract and reuse substances found in items that may be otherwise considered as waste.

To be continued.....next issue.

## Town Board

Don Peters, Town Supervisor

Nick Bianco

Jim Martorano

Louis Campisi

Matt Metz

## Heating & Cooling Tips

- ◆ Set your thermostat as low as comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.
- ◆ Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
- ◆ Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- ◆ Bleed trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if in doubt about how to perform this task, call a professional.
- ◆ Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- ◆ Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low noise models.
- ◆ During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades open on your south-facing windows during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- ◆ During the cooling season, keep the window coverings closed during the day to prevent solar gain.

Courtesy of [www.rauwenergy.com](http://www.rauwenergy.com)

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## Page 1 Electricity Quiz Answers

1. Heating house and heating water
2. Video game for 2 hours
3. Making coffee
4. 75 gallons of hot water
5. False
6. You can reduce your bill by 66%
7. Washing clothes in hot water
8. Taking baths uses more hot water than a shower of 10 minutes or less.

## Conservation Board

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