



# Summer 2010 Conservation Board

## Tips to Save Energy (and Money) in Your Home

1. Each degree you turn down the heat saves 3 percent of heating costs, while each degree you raise the temperature of your air conditioner saves 3-4 percent of cooling costs.
2. Cook with a slow cooker or a toaster oven to reduce electrical use from kitchen appliances.
3. Switch to a laptop instead of using a desktop computer and cut three-quarters off your electrical use. Turn off the laptop at the end of the day.
4. Switch to cold water washing and save 80 percent on energy used for laundry and save an estimated \$60 a year.
5. Plug anything that can be powered by a remote control or that has a power cube transformer (little black box) into a power strip, and turn it off or unplug when not in use.
6. Turn off the lights when you aren't using them and reduce your direct lighting energy use by 45 percent.
7. Switch to compact fluorescent from regular incandescent bulbs and use 60 percent less energy per bulb and save 300 pounds of CO2 a year.
8. Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket and save 1,000 pounds of CO2 a year. Insulate your hot water pipes.
9. Use public transportation whenever possible, carpool, shop locally and ideally switch to a hybrid or energy efficient car.
10. Keep your tires inflated to improve gas mileage by 3 percent.

Courtesy of: [www.care2.com/greenliving](http://www.care2.com/greenliving)

If you are out in the sun this Summer-it's important to stay hydrated. Avoid bottled water and take reusable bottles with you to fill up. Water from the tap is much cheaper too. Courtesy of: [www.friends of the earth.com](http://www.friends of the earth.com)

## Ranking Cities on Building Efficiency

The EPA estimates that commercial buildings' energy consumption accounts for 17 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

Los Angeles and Washington took the top spots in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ranking of cities with the most energy efficient buildings.

Los Angeles was the star with 293 Energy Star buildings.

Washington took second place with 204 Energy Star buildings while San Francisco came in third with 173 buildings. Denver and Chicago rounded out the top five. Denver with 136 and Chicago had 134.

With 90 Energy Star buildings, New York City ranked 10th, behind Houston with 133, Lakeland, FL with 120, Dallas-Fort Worth Area with 113 and Atlanta with 102 buildings

Detroit came in 15th, just behind Seattle and ahead of cities with decidedly greener reputations like Austin, TX.

The number of buildings qualifying for the Energy Star award jumped 40 percent from 2008, when the EPA first issued the ranking.

Collectively, the 3,900 buildings that won Energy Star ratings in 2009 cut carbon dioxide emissions by more than 4.7 million metric tons, saving some \$900 million in energy costs, according to the EPA. Courtesy of: [www.green.blogs.nytimes.com](http://www.green.blogs.nytimes.com)



Bits and Pieces

If 10,000 of us eat one locally grown apple instead of a nonlocal one, we'll save enough gas to fill the tanks of 50 cars.

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The average American family of four throws out \$600 worth of unspoiled food each year.

Courtesy of: www.idealbite.com

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Stop moths from munching on your favorite clothes by placing dried lemon rind in your drawers. Also, wrap rinds in thin cloth to hang in closets and deter those pesky moths without the need for formaldehyde-laden mothballs.

Courtesy of: www.friends of the earth.com

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On your Next Car Trip Don't Get Gouged on Gas

Figure out a budget-estimate the cost of gas for your trip on AAA's fuel cost calculator at www.fuelcostcalculator.com. Enter your start and end points and car information and you'll find out how many gallons you'll use and the approximate fuel cost of your trip.

Find bargains-gas prices can differ greatly from one station to another. Plan your trips on web-sites like GasBuddy.com and GasPrice-Watch.com.

Back off the brake-when you're stuck in Summer traffic, don't tap the brake over and over-it wastes a lot of fuel.

Clear the roof-piling gear on the roof increases air resistance, making your car burn more fuel. Pack your luggage in the trunk or backseat so your car won't have to work as hard. If you must use a rooftop carrier, make sure its level, secured and as far back on the roof as safely possible. Courtesy of: AAA Magazine

Town Board

- Susan Siegel, Town Supervisor
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Glossary of Green Terminology

Carbon Dioxide-a colorless, odorless non-combustible gas with the formula CO2 that is present in the atmosphere.

Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-A family of chemicals composed primarily of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine and fluorine whose principal applications are as refrigerants and industrial cleaners and whose principal drawback is the tendency to destroy the Earth's protective ozone layer.

Clean Power Generator-A company or other organizational unit that produces electricity from sources that are thought to be environmentally cleaner than traditional sources. Clean or green power is usually defined as power from renewable energy that comes from wind, solar, biomass energy, etc.

Climate Change refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer).

Conservation-The preservation of resources through efficient and careful use.

Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE)-is a way to measure the fuel economy of specific manufacturers' vehicles. It is expressed in miles per gallon (mpg) for a manufacturer's entire fleet of cars and light trucks.

Daylighting-the use of direct, diffused or reflected sunlight to provide supplemental lighting for building interiors.

Energy Audit-the process of determining energy consumption, by various techniques, of a building or facility.

Courtesy of: www.gogreenva.org

To be continued next issue.....

Conservation Board

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