

Sustainability Ideas That You Can Do

Crown of Glory Lunch & Learn, April 9, 2019



Home:

- Turn off lights: timers, motion sensors, light sensors
- Use LED light bulbs (remember to get the right color temperature)
- Get a home energy audit from your electric or gas utility
- Make sure to ask for any rebates from your utility
- Add attic insulation
- Appliances: get Energy Star, front loading clothes washer
- Consider line drying clothes – adds humidity to the house in the winter
- Window shades hold in heat at night and can block the sun during the day
- New Windows can make a big difference, but have a 20-25 year payback
- Get a programable thermostat
- If you get a new furnace, get a high efficiency condensing one
- Consider a cold climate heat pump if you get a new air conditioner
- Consider a hybrid water heater if you need to get a new one
- Sign up for clean energy with a REC or Community Solar Garden
- Use low flow faucet aerators and shower heads
- Use landscaping that does not require watering
- Use reusable bags
- Work to eliminate single use plastics
- Get a home composting service
- Bring all hazardous waste the recycling center
- Convert to all electric yard equipment
- Get a rain barrel
- Use no or little organic fertilizer
- Use no pesticides or only spot treat weeds
- Clean your refrigerator and AC coils
- Clean heat vents
- Change filters
- Have your furnace professional tuned up every five years
- Drain water from your hot water heater every year

(over)

Transportation:

- Walk, Bike, Car Pool, or take the bus vs. driving when you can
 - You can just try once a week
- If you are getting a new car, consider electric, hybrid, or a high fuel economy model
- Check your tire pressure
- Fix your check engine light
- Ask for recycled oil when you get your oil changed

Shopping:

- Donate any unused stuff from your house, especially clothes
- Buy used when you can
- Fix what you can unless you can get a more efficient new model

Other:

- Consider Socially Responsible Investments
- Get Involved:
 - Start a Green Team at work
 - Start a Green Team in your town
 - Write your elected officials
 - Put up Yard Signs
 - Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors
 - Talk to business owners