

Here are eight easy ways to be eco-friendly around the house.



Earth 911

Clean Out Your Storage

We all have a closet or garage full of items that aren't used anymore. Organize those items that you no longer need and you've been meaning to properly dispose of into the following groups.

- Electronics (cell phones, old computer components, TV's etc.)
- Household waste (paint, pesticides, motor oil)
- Recyclable Scrap
- Items that can be reused by selling (or giving) them to others

Recycle Smarter

Find out how to properly dispose of your used products at Earth911.com. Buy items made from recycled content and with limited packaging.

Use Energy More Wisely

Ask your energy company about how you can use more renewable energy. Most have renewable energy programs you can easily and affordably participate in.

Read your energy bill and ask the whole house to share ideas to reduce your usage.

Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They use 20% less energy and last 10 times longer.

Use Less Water

Read your water bill and ask the whole house to share ideas to reduce your usage.

Take shorter showers and put a bottle in your toilet tank.

Water your plants with used cooking water because it's loaded with nutrients.

Start Composting

Composting is a great way to reduce your waste and help your garden at the same time.

Food scraps and materials like cardboard quickly biodegrade to produce nutrient-rich fertilizer.

A cubic yard of compost is worth \$80 in dirt costs.

Invest in Energy-Efficient Appliances

Replace older appliances with more energy-efficient ones to reduce your costs.

Recycle your old appliance and see that the reusable parts are reused.

Start a Green Group

Share your experiences and inventive ideas with everyone you know.

When you have a larger project, work with others to get more results with less effort.

Use the group to learn about, or start, recycling programs and activities for your community.

Plant a Tree

The original carbon offset, trees can both reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and shade your home (reducing energy costs).

Look into locally native fruit trees that produce food that you won't have to buy at the store.

[Get more Green Eight tips](http://Earth911.com) at Earth911.com and share your experiences by commenting on them!

<http://earth911.org/blog/category/green-eight/>