



# GreenNY

## Green Home Tips

We get it. Saving the planet can seem daunting. That's why we've put together the following tips to help you take action in your own home to lower your environmental footprint. And remember, any action you take, no matter how small it may seem, will make a difference! When considering purchasing a new product to help you go green, make sure that you use up whatever products you already have first and think about if the purchase you're making will reduce your overall impact in the long run. Click the links in the tips below to get more resources on how you can carry them out.



### Reduce Energy Use and Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Replace your light bulbs with LEDs. [Learn more from NYSERDA.](#)
- Unplug appliances when not in use so they don't continue to use energy when idle.
- Run your dishwasher early in the morning or late at night and always run full loads.
- Wash clothes with cold water when possible.
- Consider going solar for your home electricity. [Learn more from NYSERDA.](#)
- Try less carbon intensive meals. Buying local and increasing the amount of vegetables and grains you eat will lower your carbon footprint.
- Green Your Commute instead of driving alone in a fossil fuel powered vehicle. [Learn more about ways to green your commute.](#)
- Find more energy saving tips on [NYSERDA's website.](#)

### Reduce Waste

- For a few days, track what you throw out and see if you can find ways to decrease or eliminate what is causing the most waste (Ex. disposable dishware, coffee cups or pods, etc.).
- Create a zero-waste kit: reusable utensils/straws, reusable bag, reusable water bottle and mug, and cloth napkin. Pro tip: keep it all in a packing cube and bring it with you wherever you go.
- Plan meals in advance so you purchase only the food you need for the week.
- Start composting at home. [Learn more on DEC's website.](#)
- Make reusable cloth gift bags instead of wrapping presents. [Check out how.](#)
- Buy products in bulk whenever possible to reduce packaging and avoid wrapped single-servings.
- Use a French press for coffee. For more kitchen ideas, [watch this DEC video.](#)
- Switch to rechargeable AA, AAA, and D batteries. And make sure to [dispose of them properly.](#)
- Use bar soaps and conditioners for your hair, hands, body, and dishes.



### Greener Lawn and Garden

- Plant only native species. Check out [DEC's "Plant Wise NY"](#) brochure for ideas of what to plant.
- Leave your lawn clippings on the lawn. They provide good nutrients for the soil.
- Only use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer. [Learn more](#) about how to "Look for the Zero."
- Start seedlings in wrapped newspaper instead of plastic containers. Wrap newspaper around the bottom of a can and tape the side. Pull it off the can, fold the bottom closed, and tape it.
- Consider electric-powered equipment when replacing mowers, weed whackers, and other lawn care products.