Green Home Tips

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.