

WHY GO GREEN?

Can You Really Make A Difference?



According to the US Environmental Protection Agency if the approximately 100 million households in the U.S. changed 5 of the most frequently used light bulbs to compact fluorescent lights it would be equivalent to taking 10 million cars off the road each year or preventing 54.8 million tons of carbon dioxide emission.

Did You Know? Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs last 10x longer and use 75% less energy

Each ton of paper we recycle saves 4000 kWh of electricity (enough for one home for 6 months), 7,000 gallons of water, and over 17 trees. It takes 60% less energy to recycle paper than to make from virgin pulp.



Did you know that the recycle rate of paper in the U.S. is only approximately 50%? We use (on average) over 900 million trees to make paper pulp each year! Also, more than 5,000 products can be made from recycled paper?

Did You Know? It takes about 14 trees to produce enough oxygen for one adult each day.



Make the switch to cloth bags. Less than 3% of the 500 billion plastic bags distributed annually across the globe are recycled (although that is improving). Plastic bags do not biodegrade but photodegrade, breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces that enter our soil, water, and food webs.

Did You Know? The U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic bags annually which cost retailers \$4 billion.

Turn off the water! If everyone in your household turned off the water while brushing teeth an average household of four could save 40 gallons of water each day, which is over 14,000 gallons each year! Now think about it every household (100 million) in the U.S. did this... We could save over 4 billion gallons each day.



Did You Know? Using water also consumes energy, letting your faucet run for five minutes consumes 15-25 gallons of water and as much energy as a 60 watt light bulb running for 14 hours!

metro**parent**



FAMILY CHALLENGE



Turn off and unplug your appliances, electronics and computers when they are not in use. Think about this; if your computer uses 60 watts and it is on for 8 hours a day then it uses 480 watts hours/day or $480/1000 = 0.48$ kWh. Households typically pay 9.4 cents per kWh, so each day that you leave your computer on you are spending \$4.5 and \$1,646.88 each year. If you turned off your computer when not in use you could save money and also cut your greenhouse gas emissions.



Did You Know? In 2007 – Americans generated 254 million tons of waste – about 85 million was recycled or composted – a rate of 33%. This equals to a reduction of 193 million metric tons of carbon dioxide or removing 35 million automobiles.



You are what you eat! Eat local and organic. Eating local will save on the transportation costs and emission. Eating organic makes a healthier environment and healthier you! The U.S. spends \$5 billion each year on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Pesticides and fertilizers get into food webs and can dramatically alter aquatic ecosystems. 73% of conventional foods have pesticide residues from at least one pesticide on them.

Did You Know? On average food travels over 1,000 miles before it gets to you! Think about it!

Start a compost bin. Yard trimming and food scraps account for roughly 23% of the U.S. waste stream. On average only about 2.6% of food waste is composted and approximately 50% of yard trimmings. Compost also has many benefits such as eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers, enriches soils, suppresses plant diseases and pests and can help remediate (clean-up) contaminated soil to name a few.



Did You Know? The average American generates 4.6 pounds of waste each day. The best way to reduce this is to prevent it by reducing our consumption and reusing, but also recycling food and yard scraps along with paper, glass, aluminum, and many other household items.



FAMILY CHALLENGE

In 2008 Waukesha country residents recycled 23,000 tons of materials which brought \$725,000 from the sales of those recyclable into those communities. This recycling saved 174,396 trees, reduced greenhouse gases equivalent to taking about 11,000 cars off the road for one year, reduced water pollution by 100 tons, and saved enough energy to serve 2,500 homes for one year.

