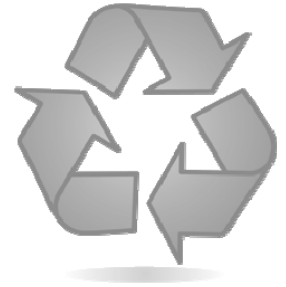


Ways to “Green” Your Life

Reduce Air Pollution:

- **Be a conscientious consumer.**
 - Purchase local, organic, & fair trade whenever possible.
- **Do not burn trash in your yard.**
 - Burning trash contributes to air pollution, respiratory diseases, and can cause wildfires.
- **Get an energy audit.**
 - This will tell you what type of home improvements to make that will save you energy & money.
- **Switch off lights you don’t need.**
- **Use light emitting diode (LEDs) or compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).**
 - LEDs use less energy and emit more light than CFLs.
 - CFLs use less energy and emit more light than traditional incandescent light bulbs.
- **Plug appliances and electronics into a power strip & turn it off when not in use.**
- **Do not let your vehicle idle.**
 - If you are running your car for more than 3 minutes, turn it off. Idling contributes to air pollution & respiratory diseases, and your vehicle gets ZERO miles per gallon. Cars do not need to be “warmed up” prior to driving.
- **Use public transportation, carpool, telecommute, walk, or bike to school & work.**
- **Consider alternate fuel vehicles such as hybrids, biodiesel, or electric.**
 - Truck drivers can install new idle- & emission-reduction technologies such as auxiliary power units.
- **Purchase an electric lawn mower.**
 - One hour of mowing with a gas-powered lawn mower is considered the equivalent of driving for 2 hours. Lawn Maintenance Equipment contributes 5% of the overall air pollution in the U.S.
- **Purchase Energy Star® or WaterSense® appliances.**
 - These will typically save you 40-50% in energy costs
- **Donate your time or money to an environmental or non-profit organization.**



Reduce Water Pollution:

- **Use organic biodegradable household cleaners.**
 - Baking soda, vinegar, & lemon juice also work well.
- **Recycle paper, glass, aluminum, steel, oil, cardboard, batteries, electronics, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), & appliances.**
 - Each year, Americans use over 85 million tons of paper, all of which could be recycled. In 2006, only 52% was recycled.
 - It takes less water & energy to produce new products from recycled materials than it does new, virgin materials.
 - Recycling appliances & electronics prevent lead & mercury contamination.
 - CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury which can pollute our drinking water. Home Depot and the Charleston County Recycling Center have drop off sites to recycle your CFL light bulbs.
- **Don't litter (this includes cigarette butts).**
 - The litter goes into storm drains which lead directly to rivers, creeks, and the ocean. We all want clean water!
- **Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash.**
- **Plant native vegetation in your yard.**
 - Native plants are accustomed to the local climate and need less care, water, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- **Compost.**
 - 20% of our trash can be composted (fruit, vegetables, yard waste)
- **Conserve water.**
 - Install rain barrels, rain gardens, & low-flow toilets.
 - Turn off water when brushing teeth, don't pre-rinse dishes, & take a short shower instead of a bath.
- **Eliminate junk mail.**
 - Visit www.41pounds.org for help on how to reduce junk mail.
- **Pack waste-free lunches.**
 - The average child generates 67 lbs. of lunch trash (zip lock bags, drink boxes, snack bags).
- **Eat less meat.**
 - It takes more fuel & energy to raise animals for consumption. Farm animal waste also contributes to air and water pollution.
- **Avoid using plastic and Styrofoam.**
 - Neither items ever decompose.
- **Take reusable bags to the store to reduce plastic bag waste.**
 - The average American uses 500 plastic bags per year!
- **Maintain your car and/or boat in good condition.**
 - This will help reduce pollution & save on fuel costs.
- **Dispose of hazardous materials properly.**
 - Paints, chemicals, cleaners, etc. should be taken to the Recycling Center for proper disposal.

Although the information in this document has been wholly or in-part funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement RE-96494198-0 to Charleston County Project Impact, it may not necessarily reflect the views of the agency and no official endorsement should be inferred. Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

