

GREEN INITIATIVES

Department of Planning and Community Development

Village of Arlington Heights

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RESIDENTIAL GREEN INITIATIVES

What You Can Do As a Homeowner

Being conscious of the environment not only provides environmental benefits but also saves money. Below are a few tips for making your residence more environmentally friendly:



Recycle

- Recycling diverts large volumes of waste from landfills and is one of the easiest measures you can take to help the environment. Simply place your recyclable items curbside on trash day. Items that can be recycled include cardboard, newspapers, magazines, bottles, jars, aluminum cans, metal cans and plastic containers. Recycling containers are available at Village Hall. If you have any questions about recycling contact the Village Health Department at (847)368-5760.
- Many computers and cell phones include toxic materials that should not sit in landfills. Cell phone batteries contain nickel and cadmium and should not be disposed of in the normal waste system. Some electronic retailers offer recycling programs. For more information about electronic recycling or to find local recyclers go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservematerials/ecycling/index.htm>

Cleaning

- Use non-toxic, environmentally safe, biodegradable cleaning and laundry products. Cleaning products are released into the environment during normal use through evaporation of volatile components and are flushed down the drain.
- Choose fragrance-free products. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in cleaning products can affect indoor air quality and also contribute to smog formation in outdoor air.



Transportation

- Consider a more fuel efficient vehicle. Check the U.S. Department of Energy's list of most fuel-efficient cars to find the one that's right for you. For more information about fuel economy go to: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/best-worst.shtml>
- Rather than driving your car to work every day consider other means of transportation. By walking, riding your bike, carpooling, taking the bus or the train you will reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, oil consumption and the costs of fueling and maintaining your vehicle. Coordinate with co-workers and carpool.



Energy

- Consider using compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They cost a bit more than regular bulbs, but you'll lower your electric bill and pay less in the long run. You can buy CFLs at most hardware and home stores. For more information go to: <http://www.comed.com/homesavings/>
- Wash your clothes in cool rather than hot water. Washing your clothes in cold water saves energy.

- Replace windows. Old windows that are not performing or energy efficient leak and consume more energy. Look for the NFRC (National Fenestration Rating Council) label that provides U-values and SHGC (solar heat gain coefficient) values. The lower the U-value the better the insulation. Also, look at the climate region map on Energy Star label to be sure that the window, door or skylight is appropriate for where you live. For more information go to: <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- Buy water-efficient showerheads. With low-flow models, a family of four can cut water usage by as much as 20,000 gallons annually which would result in an annual savings of approximately \$175.
- Use Energy Star Appliances which meet a high level of energy efficiency. Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Most appliances will have the Energy Star label with a savings amount. It is important to read the label and purchase energy efficient products. This will save energy over time. Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill with similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions, without sacrificing features, style or comfort. Energy Star helps you make the energy efficient choice. If looking for new household products, look for ones that have earned the Energy Star. For more information go to: <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- Use a programmable thermostat. A programmable thermostat will allow you to lower or increase the temperature when you are not at home. Each degree you turn down the heat saves 3 percent of heating costs, while each degree you raise the temperature of your air conditioner saves 3-4 percent of cooling costs.

General Practices

- Buy locally produced items, including produce and other goods. This will reduce the amount of fuel required to transport the things you buy from other parts of the country or the world.
- Instead of using grocery stores' disposable plastic or paper bags, bring your own reusable tote bags.



Gardening

- Rain barrels help slow down rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground. That helps keep excess water out of the sewer systems and keeps rain runoff from collecting pollutants as it travels to drainage systems and nearby waterways. Rain Barrels can save most homeowners up to 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months.

Rain barrels also provide water during dry weather. The water can be slowly released over a period of time after rains have subsided. The slow release of water will allow it to seep into the soil and be used by vegetation.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is selling rain barrels for Cook County residents. The rain barrels are \$40 each and can be ordered and paid for at <http://www.mwrdd.org/irj/portal/anonymous/Home>. There are three pickup locations. MWRD also offers gift certificates for the purchase of rain barrels.

To learn more about the program visit <http://www.mwrdd.org/irj/portal/anonymous/Home> or call 312/751-5600.

- Consider drought tolerant native landscaping. Since native plants have been growing and evolving for thousands of years and have adapted to the local soils and climate, they are more likely to thrive with minimal care than exotic plants. That can mean less need for water, fertilizer and pesticides. It's important to know your site conditions and the requirements of the native plants when making a selection. For more information go to: <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/#Benefits>
- Use nontoxic gardening techniques. Many gardeners over-apply or improperly apply pesticides, putting themselves, their families and pets at increased health risk.
- Consider the use of pervious pavers for patios and driveways. Pervious pavers can reduce water runoff by more than half. These pavers allow water to infiltrate the paver and subgrade, reducing water runoff and add color and texture to your hardscape.

By implementing the above simple steps you can reduce your energy usage, save costs, and lessen your impact on the environment. Even the smallest change can make a positive impact. For additional information please go to 'Resources' towards the end of the document.

COMMERCIAL GREEN INITIATIVES

Go Green At Work

Making your office an environmentally friendly workplace will reduce both air and water pollution, save trees and can involve your staff in doing something good.



Recycle

- Recycling diverts large volumes of waste from landfills and is one of the easiest measures you can take to help the environment. Simply place your recyclable items curbside on trash day. Items that can be recycled include cardboard, newspapers, magazines, bottles, jars, aluminum cans, metal cans and plastic containers. Recycling containers are available at Village Hall. If you have any questions about recycling contact the Village Health Department at (847)368-5760.
- Many computers and cell phones include toxic materials that should not sit in landfills. Cell phone batteries contain nickel and cadmium and should not be disposed of in the normal waste system. Some electronic retailers offer recycling programs. For more information about electronic recycling or to find local recyclers go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserva/materials/recycling/index.htm>
- Recycle ink cartridges.

Buy Green Office Supplies

- When choosing a paper, think about the following:
 - Buy recycled
 - Buy chlorine free (TCF)
 - Look for an Environmental Label

General Practices

- Save toner

Draft quality printouts use less toner. Select 'draft' printouts when using the 'print' command on your computer – this is usually changed under Printer Options on the Windows Print Dialog box.

Set your printer to make draft prints by default.

Tailor the size of paper to the length of your message.

- Save paper
Think before you print. Always use the screen to preview for errors before you print.



Energy

- Lighting accounts for one third of the energy used in commercial spaces. About half of the lighting is wasted either through inefficient bulbs, poor design or improper maintenance. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They cost a bit more than regular bulbs, but you'll lower your electric bill and pay less in the long run. You can buy CFLs at most hardware and home stores. For more information go to: <http://www.comed.com/homesavings/>
- Consider occupancy sensors or timers that switch lights off. Sensors turn lights off when they have not detected movement for about 15 minutes.
- Use electronic documents and filing systems in order to save paper.
- Explore options for alternative energy sources. Most of our energy comes from fossil fuels; however you may want to consider alternative energy sources. Greater use of renewable sources like solar could give us more secure power sources for the future.
- Save energy

Make sure all computers and other office equipment are turned off when they are not being used and that lights are turned off when natural light is sufficient.

Make sure energy saving features on PCs, printers and photocopiers are enabled.

Use the stairs instead of the elevator.

Change the thermostat on the heating or air-conditioning.

Use blinds to save on heating and cooling costs.

Transportation

- Rather than driving your car to work every day, try other ways, even if only one or two days a week. Options include: walk, ride your bike, take the bus or the train or carpool. This will reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, oil consumption and the costs of fueling and maintaining your vehicle.

Office Gardens

Providing an attractive garden area has many advantages for staff as well as enhancing the appeal of your building. Gardens provide an area for staff, encourage bird life, help filter vehicle pollution and provide a filter for rainwater.

- Plant deciduous trees near office windows, to gain light in the winter and shade in the summer.
- Plant trees in and near parking lots in order to provide shade for vehicles
- Consider pervious paving on paths and in drive/parking areas to allow water to drain through

VILLAGE INITIATIVES

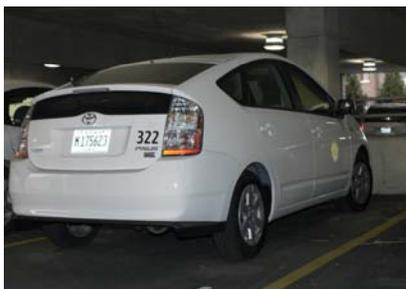
The Village has taken steps to become more energy efficient and is continuing to explore opportunities for energy reduction and environmentally friendly alternatives. The Village is currently implementing the following practices:



- A total of seven gateway signs are currently utilizing solar technology to light the signs.



- The Village encourages everyone to recycle and has recycling bins available at Village Hall. For more information about recycling contact the Health Department at 847.368.5760.



- In 2008 the Village purchased four hybrid vehicles. The Villages is evaluating the energy savings and maintenance of these vehicles in its fleet.



- The Village utilizes fluorescent bulbs and has installed motion sensors in key areas in order to save energy within its facilities. Sensors turn lights off when they have not detected movement for about 15 minutes.



- The Village is exploring options for additional sheltered bicycle parking to encourage bike riding. The Village is proposing a bike shelter and bike racks within the Downtown adjacent to the train station. Encouraging cycling to the Downtown and the train station will provide environmental benefits, help alleviate parking, traffic congestion and help improve air quality through congestion mitigation. As part of the shelter the Village is also exploring options for the inclusion of solar panels on the roof of the shelter to power lighting at the shelter, power the existing park area and as a demonstration project for the community and region. For more information about this project contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 847.368.5200.

RESOURCES

Illinois Clean Energy

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts, working with communities and citizens to improve environmental quality in Illinois. The Foundation supports programs and projects that will improve energy efficiency, develop renewable energy resources and preserve and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitats throughout the state. For more information go to:

www.illinoiscleanenergy.org

Illinois Solar Energy Association

Join the Illinois Solar Energy Association to show your support for clean energy use in Illinois. For more information about the association and about solar energy go to:

www.illinoissolar.org

Chicago Chapter of Green Building Council

For the USGBC local chapter go to:

<http://chapters.usgbc.org/Chicago/>

Bureau of Energy and Recycling

For more information about energy and recycling go to :

http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Events/

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The site provides up-to-date information on green power providers, product offerings, consumer protection issues, and policies affecting green power markets. It also includes a reference library of relevant papers, articles and reports. The Green Power Network is operated and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/index.shtml>

US Green Building Council

USGBC is helping to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling and environmentally and sociably responsible that helps improve the quality of life. For more information go to:

<http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes>

Fuel Economy

For more information about gas mileage (MPG), greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution ratings, and safety information for new and used cars and trucks go to:

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/best-worst.shtml>

Energy Star

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. For more information go to:

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

Building America

Building America forms research partnerships with all facets of the residential building industry to improve the quality and energy efficiency of homes. The goal is to develop cost effective solutions that reduce the average energy use of housing by 40% to 100%. Ultimately, Building America research will lead to net zero energy homes, which produce as much energy as they use. For more information go to:

<http://www.buildingamerica.gov>

ComEd

For tips from ComEd on how to use less energy go to:

<http://www.comed.com/homesavings/>

Natural Resource Conservation Service

For information about native plant material and seeds in Illinois go to:

http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/plants/npg/apndx_b.html