

Green Tips For Your Home

- **Save water and energy** by taking shorter showers, turn off the water while brushing your teeth, run fully loaded dishwashers, and choose the air-dry setting.
- **Do your laundry with a cold water setting.** Cold water loads can save about 90% of the energy used in a traditional washer. Wash only full loads of laundry.
- **Switch light bulbs to CFLs.** Switching from traditional light bulbs to Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) is a cost-effective way to reduce your energy use. CFLs will last 10 times as long and can save you up to 25% on your monthly electricity bill.
- **Buy Energy Star® appliances.** ENERGY STAR® appliances use 10-50% less energy and water than traditional appliances. Go to energystar.gov to find appliances that meet the ENERGY STAR® standards.
- **Sign up for Green Power.** If 10% of New Yorkers purchased pollution-free electricity, it would prevent three billion pounds of CO₂ every year from reaching the atmosphere.
- **Use power strips.** 75% of the electricity used to power a home's electronics is consumed while electronics are plugged in, but turned off. Power strips stop the electricity drain and can save up to \$200 on your annual electricity bill.
- **Reduce your use of plastic bottles.** Drinking local tap water is better for the environment and your wallet than using plastic water bottles.
- **Use “green” cleaning products.** Many cleaning products contain toxic chemicals that can damage the environment, irritate eyes and skin, and cause health problems. Green cleaning products clean just as effectively without these risks.
- **Use non-toxic paint with low volatile organic compounds (VOCs).** Purchase paint with low or no VOCs for a healthier home environment. Typical paint can contain metals, solvents, and fungicides.
- **Do an energy audit.** You may be able to save hundreds of dollars in annual energy savings by doing a simple home energy audit.
- **Stop junk mail delivery** to your home to reduce paper waste. The 80 billion pieces of junk mail Americans receive annually create over 4 million tons of paper waste.
- **Join the Central New York Energy Challenge through the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board!** Additional information is available by calling (315) 422-8276 ext. 204 or by checking the following website <http://cnyenergychallenge.org/>.

*This information is provided by the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
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