

Lisa's 10 Tips to Green Up Your Home

1. Recycling – reuse, reduce, recycle
 - Sort to make sure you get all the recyclable products together & are not throwing them out
 - re-gift or re-donate anything you do not want
2. Buy green products/services (organic & locally produced, eco-friendly)
 - Read labels to understand what the impact from this product will be on the natural environment, your family and community (e.g. using chemicals on the lawn to make it green is not good for the lake that you live on- those chemicals will run off into the lake when it rains)
 - Where was the product made (e.g. was it shipped in from hundreds of miles away?)
 - What is the product made out of (e.g. a renewable resource or a non-renewable resource)
 - Be a conscious consumer – take the time to research what you're eating, using on your body, spraying in the air and wearing.
 - In Wisconsin stay at a travel green business when on vacation.

Travel Green Info:

- Travel Green Wisconsin program is designed to protect the beauty and vitality of Wisconsin's landscape and natural resources. It is a voluntary program that reviews, certifies and recognizes tourism businesses and organizations that have made a commitment to reducing their environmental impact. Specifically, the program encourages participants to evaluate their operations, set goals and take specific actions towards environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
(<http://www.travelgreenwisconsin.com/consumer/index.htm>)

3. Compost
 - Small compost bins are available for \$40/\$50 – they're great for your garden. For more information about how to compost go to <http://www.compostguide.com/>
4. Conserve water
 - Average American uses a100 gallons of water A DAY
 - Old facets are not efficient (US conventional facets flow at 2.2 gallons per minute, while older faucets flow at 5 gallons a minute) Use low flow facets; they aerate flow at 1 gallon per minute
 - Turn shower off when shaving legs, washing hair & soaping up body
 - Turn water off when washing face and brushing teeth, etc.
 - Use low flow fixtures when remodeling kitchen & bathrooms
 - Using energy star appliances when remodeling home (front loaded washer & dryer)
5. Green cleaning for your home
 - Clean home with eco-friendly products, such as: EcoSense, Seventh Generation, and Mrs. Meyer's products
 - Clean in-door air naturally with plants – they have been found to reduce in-door air pollution

6. Make your home energy efficient

- Perform an energy audit – get a free consultation from Wisconsin's focus on energy to find out how to make your home more energy efficient (<http://www.focusonenergy.com/>)
- Refrigerators account for as much as 20% of household electric use, you can lower that cost with energy efficient appliances (replace refrigerators that you are using the freezer section of only with a chest freezer)
- Best energy performance temperatures the fridge should be 37° F, and 3° F in freezer
- Invest in energy efficient appliances.
- Have your vents cleaned & air conditioner tuned up each spring.
- compact fluorescent lights - ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer; they also produce 75 percent less heat. In Oconomowoc the City Utilities recycles the CFL bulbs.

7. Reduce/stop use of chemicals in your yard and home

- Use eco-friendly methods of gardening such as: square foot gardening, companion planting and organic gardening.
- Use rain gardens and rain barrels to gather & store rain in your yard.
- In Oconomowoc -May's Garden Center offers products that are eco-friendly and organic

8. Home remodeling

- Use low VOC paint
- Put in cork floors or floors out of other renewable resources (FSC certified floors)
- Use recycled building parts from demolition buildings (wood, metal, roofs) for the remodeling project
- Use recycled glass counter tops

9. Car pooling and planning your trips

- Make a list of the stops you have to make – map it out and go to the farthest place first
- Warmed car engine runs more efficiently
- Learn about eco-friendly driving from Milwaukee Hybrid Group (http://www.milwaukeehybridgroup.com/Page_1.html)

10. Home appliances

- Read the directions for your household appliances – if you operate them correctly the appliances should last longer
- Dishwashers/Washing machines load them up fully; don't run when they're half full
- Line dry/air dry clothing
- Wash clothes in cold water (you are not paying/using the energy to heat up the water)
- Un plug items not in use in your home (e.g. curling iron, toaster, and printer) all electrical items will draw energy even when they are turned off.
- Place cords into power strips and when not using unplug power strip from the wall.

11. Informational website that have lots of great tips to help you green up your home & work!!

- www.treehugger.com
- www.greenbiz.com
- www.focusonenergy.com
- www.travelgreenwisconsin.com
- www.ecologue.com