



WISCONSIN PARTNERS FOR CLEAN AIR

A coalition committed to improving air quality through voluntary actions

What Individuals Can Do to Improve Air Quality:

Transportation:

- Tighten down your gas cap. If you would like to save up to 30 gallons of gasoline a year, make sure you tighten down your gas cap until it clicks 4-5 times to ensure a proper seal (85% of gas caps have this clicking mechanism).
- Do not top off your gas tank. Ever wonder why the nozzle trigger doesn't catch when you first start pumping gasoline? Reason: the prior user topped off their gas tank, causing gasoline to get sucked into the pump's vapor recovery system and temporarily clogging the line. When you use the pump next, the trigger clicks several times to clear the vapor recovery line. So those extra couple cents the prior user thought they put in their tank most likely were sucked back into the station. When the nozzle clicks off, stop so you can save money, prevent spillage and save the air.
- Refuel during the cooler evening hours during the summer so that the fumes released are less likely to contribute to poor air quality.
- Care for your car. Regular maintenance and tune-ups, changing the oil and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life and increase its resale value. It could reduce your car's emissions by more than half.
- Combine trips and errands. Vehicles don't reach their maximum operating efficiency until they have been driven for at least 2 miles. When you first start a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour, it pollutes up to five times more than when the engine is warm.
- Take mass transit, share a ride or carpool. Even if you do it just once or twice a week, you'll reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and save money (depending on car size and type) to own and operate a vehicle.
- Ride your bike or walk instead of driving. It's a great way to travel and it can help you and the air get in shape. Vehicles on the road create more than 25% of all air pollution nationwide.

Save Energy at Home

In the Basement:

- Turn down the temperature of your hot water heater to 120 degrees to save energy. The water will still be hot, but you will save money and avoid scalding yourself.
- Put an insulating blanket on your hot water heater to reduce heat loss.
- Insulate hot water pipes to reduce heat loss, particularly those closest to the hot water heater or those passing through unheated areas.
- Replace filters on furnaces, air-conditioners, and heat-pumps regularly so that they run efficiently.
- Replace old appliances with more energy efficient models.
- Have a professional seal your heating ducts to reduce heat loss.

Upstairs:

- Inspect your home's insulation.
- Caulk and weather-strip all doors and windows.
- Install a programmable clock thermostat to automatically set your heating temperature 10 degrees lower at night, when you are not home, or when you leave the house.
- Purchase clean energy where available. (Sign up for We Energies' "Energy for Tomorrow Program" To learn more call 1-800-242-9137 or visit www.we-energies.com/residential/accoptions/eft.htm)
- Purchase Energy Star products. See www.energystar.gov or call the ENERGY STAR Hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).
- Use the "energy saver" settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Turn off your computer at night and when it's not in use.
- Replace as many incandescent bulbs with compact florescent bulbs as possible. They save energy and last ten times longer. They are great for lights used often and in hard to reach fixtures.

Laundry room:

- Do laundry during off-peak hours.
- Run only full loads in laundry machines.
- Clean dryer lint after each load so the dryer runs as efficiently as possible.
- Dry laundry on a clothesline.

Kitchen:

- Cover pots when you are cooking to reduce energy use.
- Wash dishes in a sink or dishpan of soapy water. Do not run hot water excessively.
- Run only full loads in the dishwasher. Air dry dishes when possible.
- Outdoor: Use propane or natural gas grill. For charcoal grills, use an electric or chimney barbecue starter (available at your local home supply store), instead of lighter fluid.

Bathroom:

- Shorten your showers to save on energy used to heat the water.
- Install low-flow shower-heads.
- Install faucet aerators.

In the Workroom:

- Use low-VOC or nontoxic household cleaners.
- Use low VOC or no VOC paints.
- Properly seal household cleaners and chemicals and solvents in airtight containers.
- Use natural/biodegradable cleaners when possible such as baking soda and vinegar. See http://www.healthhouse.org/tipsheets/TS_HealthyCleaning.pdf
- Dispose of paints, chemicals and other solvents properly. (See Milwaukee's Household Hazardous Waste Collection website at <http://www.mpw.net/Pages/hazwaste.htm> or call Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's hazardous waste information line at 414-225-2066 or web: <http://v3.mmsd.com/HHW.aspx>)

Throughout the House:

- Schedule an energy audit for expert advice on your home as a whole. Call the Focus on Energy Information Center at 1-800-762-7077.

Garden & Shed:

- Replace gas-powered equipment such as mowers and leaf blowers with electric, rechargeable, or manual equipment.
- Fill and use gas powered lawn equipment in the evening hours.
- Buy a spill-proof, low-emitting gas can.
- Keep mower blades sharp and undersides clean.
- Mow less. Plant slow-growing grass and seed mixtures. Use more native plants.
- Try natural landscaping to minimize lawn mowing and fertilizers.
- Use organic or nontoxic pesticides and garden products.