

Green Tips

December 2006

As the weather turns colder, consider these energy (and earth) saving tips:

- For Autumn leaves, look for that wonderful, exercise-inducing rake. Unlike a leaf blower, a rake uses no gasoline and it keeps you warm. Compost your leaves.
- Set your thermostat to reduce heating when you're not at home. Or choose a lower setting that any stay-at-home pets can safely endure. Why heat the place when nobody is around?
- Close the heating vents in any part of the house that isn't regularly used.
- Try wearing long sleeves indoors with your lower heat setting. Add another blanket to the bed and keep the heat down. Use slippers to keep the feet toasty for those late night bathroom visits.
- If you don't already use the bus or bike to work, garage your car or use a scraper or windshield cover rather than running the engine in the morning to de-ice or defrost.
- Ever wonder why caves are a constant temperature (and why cavemen and bats always seem so content)? When replacing your home heater, consider a geothermal system with buried pipes that extract the earth's natural energy as a baseline temperature in your home – it works well in winter and summer!
- Less sunlight means more lights on indoors for a longer period of time. Remember the energy-saving compact fluorescents and minimize the number of fixtures being used. Consider a lamp using one bulb rather than flipping that switch that activates all those overhead lights and reduce your energy consumption!
- Consider holiday decorations that don't consume electricity. Or, for lighting, consider strings of "LED" bulbs that are vastly more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.
- Reduce packaging for those holiday gifts! Use the Cedars Church Alternative Gift Project for your gift-giving needs. Or consider locally available gifts – or electronic gift certificates – which require no trucking.