

Green Tips

January 2007

"Green" New Year's Resolutions!

1. Look for ways to reduce your ecological footprint at work and on your commute:

- Pack your lunch in a reusable container using locally grown foods (or bring your own container to your favorite lunch spot if they use plastic serving dishes - most proprietors won't mind saving the cost of the dish).
- Set achievable goals for using non-motorized or public transit ways to commute at least two days a week.
- If you're a ferry commuter, join the chorus of folks asking the crew for more recycling bins.
- Use a programmable thermostat that
- keeps the house at a lower temperature when nobody is home.
- Completely shut off your computer when you leave the office. See if printers and copiers can be completely shut down without printing pages upon start-up.
- For all those electrical gadgets and wall warts that consume electricity even when turned off, plug your electronic gear into a power strip with an on-off switch.
- If you work in the Seattle Federal Building, inquire why all overhead lights are turned on before 7:00 a.m., before most folks are in the building.
- Post a reminder near your office door that the last one out shuts off all the lights and powers down all non-essential equipment.

2. Reduce your footprint closer to home:

- See what you can and can't do using public transit for your errands and local chores and advocate for changes to allow you to use transit more consistently.
- Determine what it would take to do your regular shopping with a bicycle (racks, trailer, etc.).
- Explore ways to car pool more (find like-minded and "like-scheduled" community mates).
- Advocate for the use of 100% biofuels in all city and county vehicles.
- Contact your fellow members of Cedars and see if you can car pool to Sunday services and activities.

3. Suggest Green Tips! We welcome any ideas and ways to create a forum for sharing tips, connecting for carpools, and advocating for environmentally friendly changes in our communities.