



CARING FOR THE EARTH. TIPS FOR CREATING FEWER IMPACTS.

--adapted from "50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth" by the Earth Works Group,
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Provided and modified by the City of Moreno Valley Environmental and Historical Preservation Board

1. Clean or replace your furnace/air conditioner filter once a month. When it becomes dirty, the fan has to work harder and consumes more energy.
2. Next time you go to the beach or on a picnic, bring a trash bag. Then spend a few minutes picking up any trash you find.
3. Plant a tree or three! A cluster of urban trees can reduce air temperature around them by 10F. This can reduce local energy demand for air conditioning by 10 to 50%.
4. Buy organically-grown foods, such as fruits and vegetables. This protects you and the environment from toxic pesticides.
5. Don't throw half-empty paint cans in the trash. Save them and take them to a Riverside County hazardous waste collection event.
6. Carpool to work. This helps save fuel, reduce air pollution, and reduce traffic congestion.
7. Bring a coffee cup to work instead of using disposable cups. Take a travel mug to offsite meetings.
8. Recycle aluminum cans. You can make a little money at it, and making cans from recycled aluminum uses 90% less energy and creates 95% less air pollution than making cans from scratch.
9. Don't release helium balloons into the air. They can end up in the ocean and mistakenly be eaten by marine animals (a deflated balloon looks a lot like a jellyfish). Turtles or whales that eat balloons often die.
10. Install compact fluorescent bulbs in light fixtures in place of incandescent lights. They last longer and use ¼ to 1/3 as much energy.
11. If you change your own oil in your car, don't discard the oil in the trash. Take it to an auto shop for recycling or save it for disposal at a Riverside County hazardous waste collection event.



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12. Install a low flow showerhead in your bathroom. Showers can account for up to 30% of home water use, so reducing the amount used there saves significantly.
13. To avoid using toxic flea collars on your pets, try feeding them brewer's yeast and garlic instead (available at pet stores in handy tablets). For some reason, fleas hate it.
14. Try "grass-cycling." Leave lawn clippings on your lawn instead of bagging and disposing of them. The mulch created by the clippings reduces water loss and recycles nutrients back into the lawn.
15. Use cloth grocery bags or recycle heavy-duty paper bags when you shop. You'll get a small rebate from some grocery stores, and the cloth bags are stronger than paper OR plastic!
16. Keep your car tuned up. It will get better gas mileage and produce fewer air pollutants.
17. Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth, shave, or wash the dishes. A running faucet lets 3 to 5 gallons of water go down the drain each minute. Turn the water on only when you actually need to rinse something.
18. Use your microwave oven or toaster oven instead of the full oven if you are cooking small amounts. Both appliances use much less energy than the big oven.
19. Keep your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under inflation reduces fuel economy and wears the tires out faster than they would if properly inflated.
20. Reduce waste paper by stopping junk mail. Write to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Request that your name be removed from direct marketing lists. Your signature must be included on the letter or postcard. Do this for all names in your household.
21. Walk or bicycle somewhere that you would ordinarily drive. You'll reduce air pollution and get some good exercise!



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22. Plant trees and shrubs that attract wildlife in your yard. For example, many plants with tubular red flowers are attractive to hummingbirds, and berries provide food for many kinds of birds.
23. Make double-sided copies whenever you can. It will save paper. Ask your office to install double-side printers as well.
24. Clean the coils on your refrigerator at least once a year. It will improve the efficiency of the refrigerator and reduce its energy use.
25. Buy products made with recycled materials, such as paper or plastics. Creating demand for recycled products will help create markets for recyclable materials and keep them from going into landfills. Less trash into landfills means fewer new dumps in our county.
26. Don't let your car idle for long periods of time. It takes less gas (and makes less air pollution) to restart the car than to let it idle longer than a minute. If you know you will be waiting several minutes (for a child, a train, or a traffic delay), turn the car off, then restart when it is time to move.
27. Clean the lint trap in your dryer after every use. It will keep the air circulating freely and help the dryer use less energy per load.
28. Snip six pack rings. Even if you put them into the trash, they could blow out of the garbage can or trash truck and end up entangling and killing wildlife or sea creatures. It only takes a moment to snip open all the rings.
29. Water your lawn at night or in the early morning. Less water will be lost in evaporation, so you won't need to let it run as long. Several short applications of water, with an hour or more between them, will soak in better than one long application.
30. Eliminate turf/grass areas and plant drought tolerant plants using rocks/mulch in your design.
31. Turn up your thermostat during air conditioning season. Set it at 78F when you are home and turn it off when you will be away. If you have a timer on your thermostat, set it to start cooling about a half-hour before you get home.