Hanover Park Environmental Committee

Tips To Go Green and Save Money

Saving on Your Utility and Water Bills

Conserving resources is good for the environment, and it is also good for your wallet. Here are some tips to save money on your bills.

Save on Lighting

Use the following tips to help you save money on lighting costs:

- Use timers on your lights
- Use solar and/or motion detection lighting
- Install Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs wherever possible. They consume 75% less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than regular bulbs. Light emitting diode (LED) lights use even less energy than CFLs and also last much longer than regular light bulbs

Save on Heating and Cooling

Use the following tips to help you save money on utility bills:

- Insulate your windows with spring metal, vinyl, felt, or self-adhesive foam to reduce heating and cooling costs
- Doors lose twice as much energy as windows due to their size and frequent use, and they are harder to seal. Use rubber or metal sweeps, foam tape, or insulating molding.
- Add foam or insulation to the inside of your garage door (do-it-yourself kits are available)
- Seal all leaks and apply weather-stripping to the bottom of your garage door
- Insulate around pipes, heating and ventilation ducts, and electrical outlets
- Wrap your water heater in a specially-made tank blanket (make sure it has a value of at least R-8). Keeping your water hot helps your tank work less and last longer.
- Install a programmable thermostat to save year round
- Replace your furnace filters regularly and consider having your ducts cleaned
- Have a professional regularly service your furnace and AC unit
- If you have a fireplace, keep your flue closed when you are not using it (winter or summer), and always have a professional check and clean your fireplace yearly

Keep Water Costs Down

Use the following tips to lower water use, which keeps costs down:

- Fix all leaks, big or small, around your home. Even a small leak and can add up to gallons in no time. Toilet flaps that do not seal properly can account for much of the water lost in a home, yet are very inexpensive to replace (test your flap seal by placing a few drops of dark food coloring in your toilet tank. If the color turns up in the bowl in 10 or 20 minutes, your seal needs replacing).
- Place a two liter pop bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to save hundreds of gallons of water every year

Save Money When Using Appliances and Electronics

Use the following tips to save money on your utility bills:

- When you need to replace an appliance in your home, get one that is Energy Star rated. These products use an average of 30% less energy than similar models.
- Run your dishwasher, washer, and dryer only when full
- Clean your dryer's lint screen vent (not just the lint screen) and the vent leading from the dryer to the outside of your home. You can buy special brushes or vacuum attachments to do this. Clean the vents at least twice a year to help the dryer run efficiently and to prevent fires.
- Electronic items (such as computers, stereos, microwave ovens, or TVs) still draw power after you turn them off. Plug these items into a power strip and turn the power strip off when leaving the room (or simply unplug the unit). This also greatly extends their life.

Turn this sheet over for our calendar of events!