

- When remodeling, consider sustainable materials like bamboo flooring.
- Install a tankless hot water heater, and you'll never run out of hot water.
- Instead of sending someone cut flowers, give them a plant.
- When redecorating, use latex paint instead of one that's oil-based.
- Keep your tires properly inflated. You'll get better gas mileage.
- Next time you have a dinner party, use cloth napkins.
- Don't toss out your old cell phone; donate it to a charity.
- Keep a canvas bag in your car so you'll have it handy when you go grocery shopping.
- Buy high thread-count sheets. Natural fiber sheets aren't made with chemicals while no-iron sheets are.
- Install a cedar closet. Mothballs contain harmful chemicals.
- Drink organic coffee.
- Set your sprinklers to water at night. This saves water because there is less evaporation.
- Ask your lawn care provider to use organic pesticides.
- Add brewer's yeast to your pet's food as a natural flea repellent.
- Instead of turning up the heat at night, wear cashmere socks.
- Bring a coffee mug to work instead of using disposable cups.
- Ask your landscape architect to use drought-resistant plants in your yard.
- When buying new appliances, select energy-efficient models.
- Close all your chimney dampers. Up to 8% of heat can escape through the chimney.
- Have an "organic dinner party" and serve foods from your local farmers' market.
- Ask your assistant to make two-sided copies, keeping paper waste to a minimum.
- Choose certified organic treats for your dog or cat.
- Ask your accountant to request "paperless statements" from your utilities and credit-card companies.
- Ask your gardener to use a broom rather than a hose to clean your driveway.
- Consider purchasing a low-emission vehicle or hybrid.
- Buy a laptop. A desktop computer uses 50% more energy than a laptop.
- At the office, turn off the lights in conference rooms when not in use.
- When building a new home or addition, ask your architect to source out green materials.
- Buy wool carpets rather than synthetic ones.
- Consider a front-loading washing machine to save water and energy.
- Choose Earth-friendly soaps and cleansers.
- Grab a dishtowel instead of a paper towel when you dry your hands.
- Select a clothes dryer with a moisture sensor to save energy and wear and tear on your clothing.
- Use an environmentally friendly dry cleaner.
- Use your microwave. It's 70% more efficient than a stovetop or oven.
- Run appliances at off-peak hours, usually 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Dimmer switches use less electricity, and the light is often more flattering.
- Cover your pool at night, and up to 70% of energy won't go up in steam.
- Visit a farmers' market this weekend, and buy some locally grown produce.
- Purchase a water-filtration system so you can stop relying on bottled water.
- Use a French press to make your coffee. It tastes great, and you won't need paper filters.
- When ordering take-out food, request no napkins or flatware.
- Cover pots when cooking to speed up heating time and save energy.
- Install a drip-irrigation system on your property to conserve water and encourage strong root growth in trees.
- Consider purchasing antique or estate jewelry instead of new.
- Unplug your cell-phone charger. It continues to draw energy when not in use.
- Try to buy only free-range poultry and eggs.
- Consider building a prefab home.
- Buy tree-free paper made from hemp, bamboo or cotton.
- Consider eco-luxury fabrics such as wool, cashmere and silk.
- When visiting your florist, request arrangements made only with organic flowers.
- Try an organic wine with dinner this evening.
- Candles made from soy are nontoxic, biodegradable, and they burn longer than paraffin.
- Use recycled paper in the copier at work.