

Helpful Websites

- www.returntogreen.com sells a variety of eco-friendly cleaning products and supplies.
- www.righttreerightplace.com for advice on selecting, planting and caring for your trees.
- www.recyclespot.org for regional recycling information.
- www.bridgingthegap.org for environmental resources and education.
- www.restorekc.org for information on what to do with remodeling/ construction leftovers.
- www.energystar.gov for energy efficiency strategies for business and home.
- www.kcpl.com/energyoptimizer for programmable energy saving thermostat.
- www.missourigasenergy.com for information on lowering the setting on your water heater thermostat.
- www.marc.org/environment for regional environmental issues.
- www.gladstone.mo.us/communitydev/green for the City of Gladstone's environmental resources.



CITY OF GLADSTONE

**7010 N. Holmes St.
Gladstone, MO 64118**

Phone: 816-436-2200
Fax: 816-436-2228
www.gladstone.mo.us



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CITY OF GLADSTONE

"Green" Basics for the Home

Each individual can
make a difference.

Look inside and see
what you might already
be doing.....



What Does It Mean To Be Sustainable?

Sustainability...

...is a buzzword we hear when people talk about “green” principles and practices. It means the ability to meet our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. By thinking ahead now, you can help to provide a more predictable future and save some money too!

Practicing Green Citizenship at Home

TIPS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS:



Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. If every American homeowner replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs. Changing five of the most-frequently used lights in your home can save up to \$100 a year.

Test for leaks. Hold a lit incense stick next to doors, windows, outlets and other openings. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you may have an air leak.

Power settings. Set the power on your computer to have your monitor and hard drive “sleep” after a certain amount of time of non-use.

Keep your heat inside. When it snows walk outside and look at your roof. If the snow sticks and lasts more than a day, you probably have enough insulation in your attic. US Dept. of Energy suggests insulating to a rating of R-49.

Hot water heaters. Lowering the setting on your water heater thermostat can save approximately 3 to 5 percent in energy costs. By adding an insulator “jacket” to your heater, you can save even more too!

In the winter. In the winter time, improve your comfort and lower your heating consumption. Most fans have a switch which allows you to reverse the motor and operate the ceiling fan at low speed in the clockwise direction. This forces warm air near the ceiling down into the occupied space.

OTHER AT HOME TIPS:

Repair leaky water faucets. Thirty drops of water a minute can waste as much as 50 gallons of water a month. Also, don't let the water run while you brush your teeth. Turning water off to brush and on again only to rinse can save between 2.5 to 4 gallons of water.

Recycle. Be sure to recycle materials, including newspapers, office paper, plastic, aluminum cans, cardboard and batteries.

For Gladstone residents, the nearest recycling center is located at Metro North Mall.

Household filters. Keep filters clean and replace them regularly. Common houseplants may help keep indoor air clean too.

Cleaners. Use natural cleaners labeled non-toxic and biodegradable.

Rain Gardens and Barrels



Rain gardens can absorb up to 30 % more water than the same size area of your lawn. Rain gardens also help to reduce erosion and flooding in our streams.



For instructions to make your own rain garden or barrel, go to www.marc.org

Rain barrels are a good way to irrigate your plants and garden. Rain water is natural and void of chemicals and chlorine. By capturing rain water, you can also lower your water bill.

Remodeling Your Home?



Check www.gladstone.mo.us/communitydev/green for a complete guide to what, why, and how to “green” your remodeling project.