summer

Tips for Green Living

Village of La Grange Environmental Quality Commission

Install window coverings. Window coverings can reduce energy loss through the windows, lower heating and cooling bills, and improve home comfort. Effective coverings include window treatments and storm windows with low-e coatings.

Use air conditioning wisely. Set your thermostat at the highest temperature you find comfortable. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, air conditioners use about 6% of all the electricity produced in the United States and, as a result, roughly 117 million metric tons of carbon dioxide are released into the air each year.

Use a programmable thermostat. Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting when you return home and need cooling.

Keep hot air out of your home. Seal openings by adding caulk or weather stripping.

Travel green. Bring a reusable water bottle, use public transit or rent a fuel efficient car, use reef-friendly sunscreen, and turn off lights and AC when not in your room.

Hit the garage sales. Conserve natural resources and prevent waste by purchasing second hand items instead of new products.

Use a clothesline. It's a great way to prevent pollution and reduce carbon emissions!

Conserve water. Let your lawn go dormant and, better yet, replace some of your lawn with lower-maintenance plants. Save the purified water for drinking and growing food.

Make your picnics and parties waste free. Focus on reusables and avoid single-use plastic cups, plates, utensils, straws, paper napkins. Create an inviting atmosphere with secondhand dishes and linens rather matching tablecloths and dishware.

Compost your food scraps. Set up a bin in your backyard -- decomposition is faster in the warmer weather.

Grill with propane. Propane burns cleaner than wood or charcoal.

Enjoy local recreation The forest preserves and miles of bike trails provide many opportunities to enjoy nature close to home.