

Tips For Saving Money While Going Green

- **Disconnect** - Appliances can be turned off but still gobble up energy when they are plugged in. Go through your house and unplug everything that doesn't absolutely need to be connected full time. Examples would be: coffee pot, can opener, blender, radio/stereo, microwave, computer, printer, floor fans, portable heater
- **Install Programmable Thermostat** – For every degree you lower your thermostat in the winter and raise it in the summer, you save on your energy bills. Install an automatic programmable thermostat that allows you to set specific temperatures for different times of the day. For example, in the winter, you don't need it as warm when you are sleeping and in the summer you don't need to cool the house while you are at work.
- **Water Heater** – If your water heater is three or four years old, wrap it in an insulation blanket, available at hardware stores. When replacing an old water heater consider purchasing an energy efficient model. The initial cost may be a little more, but will save you more in the long run. Keep the water heater setting in the midrange of 120 degrees; anything hotter is just wasting energy.
- **Faucets/Showerheads** – Installing a low-flow showerhead and faucet aerators can reduce your usage of hot water; saving you money on your energy bill and your water bill.
- **Ceiling Fans** – In the winter months, reverse the direction on your ceiling fan to spin counterclockwise. As heat rises, the ceiling fan will push the heat back down and keep the room warmer.
- **Energy Efficient Light Bulbs** – Replace your typical incandescent bulbs with longer lasting compact florescent bulbs. The price tag is higher than a standard bulb but uses about two-thirds less energy and lasts about 10 times longer than a traditional light bulb.
- **Drafts** – Cut energy costs by closing off drafts and increasing insulation in your home. Weather stripping and caulk can be used to plug drafts around windows, doors, electrical boxes and cable outlets.