

GREENING YOUR SINGLE FAMILY HOME EASY INVESTMENTS WITH A HIGH IMPACT

EASY INVESTMENTS

Sites	1	Provide convenient and secure bike storage to encourage bicycle riding.
	2	Provide rain barrels to harvest rainwater for on-site reuse.
	3	Plant indigenous trees or sedums. Plants that require little or no maintenance will reduce on-site irrigation, reducing water use.

Water	1	Install dual-flush toilets which can reduce water usage by 1/3...or composting toilets which use no water at all.
	2	Install low-flow showerheads.
	3	Install foot controls at sinks for reduced water usage and more sanitary conditions.
	4	Track water usage on a quarterly basis via water bills and actively make conservation efforts.

Energy	1	Replace old equipment and appliances with Energy Star Rated appliances. More efficient appliances, such as dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines, exhaust fans, garbage disposals and computers can greatly reduce energy use in your home.
	2	Upgrade old boilers and separate domestic hot water from the heating system.
	3	Insulate your water heater. By purchasing an energy saving heat blanket, you can conserve energy by reducing heat loss from your water heater.
	4	Reduce air infiltration at windows and doors. Repairing air leaks could yield a high energy savings. However, make sure that sufficient fresh air ventilation is available and that there is a working carbon monoxide (CO) detector at every floor.
	5	Select solar powered lights for exterior walkways.
	6	Install programmable thermostats to maximize comfort and efficiency. If possible, use wireless thermostats to more efficiently control for variations in the heating and cooling seasons. Determine if radiators need valves to increase comfort for occupants and reduce energy loss.
	7	Use ceiling fans whenever possible to reduce the need for A/C. Ceiling fans spinning in the reverse direction can also more efficiently distribute heat in the winter.
	8	Provide for line drying options for laundry.
	9	Paint flat roof with appropriate aluminized paint to make it reflective.

Materials	1	Buy materials that renew quickly such as bamboo or cork.
	2	In lieu of vinyl, use linoleum tile which is made from linseed oil.
	3	When purchasing carpets, look for Greenguard certified and/or Rugmark.
	4	Install a convenient and easy to use recycling system that encourages separation of recyclable materials.
	5	Select natural materials for blinds, windows etc...
	6	Purchase furniture that was produced with low-VOC coatings and does not off-gas formaldehyde or urea.

Air	1	Avoid carpet or other porous materials in high-moisture areas.
	2	Install permanent shoe racks near front door to encourage occupants to take off shoes indoors.
	3	Repair any active plumbing leaks and remove any signs of mold.
	4	Remove lead paint from base moldings, operable windows, doors and casings.