

GREENYC Tips

Ten things you can do to become more sustainable.



1. Switch to ENERGY STAR® qualified Compact Fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

GE Energy Smart™, ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs use up to 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to ten times longer. Less energy used means a lower electric bill. GE Energy Smart™ CFLs can be purchased in many locations including your local hardware store. To learn more about the energy savings of CFLs, please [Energy Star's fact sheet](#).

2. Buy ENERGY STAR® appliances.

Energy Star® appliances use 10-50% less energy and water than traditional models. Nearly all appliances, from TVs to air conditioners to washers and dryers, have models that are made to meet ENERGY STAR® standards. When your next shopping for an appliance, be sure to ask for ENERGY STAR. Want more information? Go to energystar.gov. To learn more about ways you can save energy, please visit [New York State's Get Energy Smart program](#).

3. Don't air condition an empty room

Air conditioners are one of the largest consumers of electricity. Be sure to shut off your air conditioner when you're not home and manually set the thermostats and timers found on newer models. Also, using shades to help cool your home substantially reduces the amount of time your air conditioner needs to run.

4. Unplug chargers and appliances when not in use.

In the average home, 40% of electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off but still plugged in. Make sure to unplug chargers and appliances when you are not using them.

5. Switch to a green energy provider.

If just 10% of New Yorkers purchased green power it would prevent nearly three billion pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere each year. New Yorkers can easily sign up for green power by going to poweryourway.com.

6. Walk or take public transportation.

You can eliminate 1,600 pounds of greenhouse gases a year just by leaving the car at home twice a week. Go to mta.info to find the easiest way to get around the City using public transportation. And for bikers, visit the [Department of Transportation](#) or call 212-NEWYORK to get the 2007 New York Cycling Map.

7. Recycle your glass, metal, paper and plastic.

The average New York City resident discards nearly four and a half pounds of waste each day - that's more than three-quarters of a ton per year. You can help reduce this waste by following the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. If you have questions about the City's recycling guidelines or how to recycle, visit [NYCWasteLe\\$\\$](#). To learn more about ways you can save, please visit the [City's guide to recycling in New York](#).

8. Bring your own cloth bag to the grocery store.

Petroleum is used to produce the millions of plastic bags consumed in the City each year. Each cloth bag you use has a potential to eliminate an average of 1,000 plastic bags in its lifetime. Making the simple switch to cloth bags will reduce our nation's oil consumption and lead to a cleaner environment.

9. Use green cleaning products.

Many cleaning products contain chemicals that can damage the environment and impact human health. Some ingredients in commercial cleaning products can be irritating to eyes and skin, and may cause chronic health problems, especially in small children. Green cleaning products are just as effective without the risks. Go to greenerchoices.org for more information on choosing green cleaning products for your home.

10. Switch to paperless bank statements and online bill paying.

Sick of all that mail? Log on to your bank's website and enroll in their paperless banking program. If every home in the US viewed and paid bills electronically, the country would save 18.5 million trees and avoid 2.2 billion tons of toxic air pollutants. And if you want to reduce the junk mail you receive, visit [NYCWasteLe\\$\\$](#) to remove your name from mailing lists.