

We Can Help You Green Up At Home!

Conserve Water

- *Use a rain barrel to collect water. Use to water flowerbeds and containers.
- *Install a raingarden to help absorb rainwater runoff and prevent erosion. See ourohio.org for ideas on how to get started.
- *Learn to water wisely. Apply water to newly planted plants at a trickle and water lawns in the early morning to avoid waste. See our [watering guidelines](#) for more information.
- *Exercise proper site selection. When choosing plants, be careful to use plants best suited to the site. For example, avoid wet areas for pines and spruces, and avoid dry areas for hostas. As a bonus, when plants are in their ideal environment, they will have fewer pest problems and need less fertilizer!
- *Explore alternatives to grass. Cut down on toxic lawnmower emissions, fertilizers, pesticides and water consumption by minimizing the amount of lawn space in your yard. Create new beds and make existing beds larger. Add ground covers, flowering shrubs and perennials. By using native species that are tolerant to the site, you will further cut down on the need for chemicals and water.
- *Plant trees for shade. Grass grown in partial shade requires less water. Plus, if planted on the south or west side of your house, the tree will do double duty by cooling your home!

Go Organic

- *Switch to organic pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers. (Add espoma, etc links here) Make sure to only buy or use them when necessary and to dispose of old chemicals responsibly. Visit swaco.org for more information.

Compost

- *Make your own compost site, or buy a composter.
- *Compost raw kitchen scraps, and plant debris.
- *It's simple, and you'll be rewarded with rich, black soil to use in flowerbeds, container gardens or with houseplants. And it's free!

Invite Wildlife Into Your Yard

With additions as simple as the right plants, feeders, and a birdbath, you can watch the number of different species of birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects multiply in your own yard in as little as just one year!

Use Bio-degradable Pots

Oakland now carries greenPots, a line of bio-degradable pots that are attractive, inexpensive and easily compostable after 5 years. Made from sustainable rice, greenPots come in beautiful colors and modern designs.

Plant Trees

Did you know that shade trees can make buildings 20% cooler in the summer? Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves, their roots prevent erosion, and if that's not "cool" enough, one acre of trees removes 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide each year! For more fun facts about trees, go to treesaregood.com

Use Houseplants

In addition to adding oxygen to the air you breath, NASA has determined that houseplants have the ability to scrub pollutants from the air. Some materials in homes such as synthetic carpets, fabrics and laminated countertops have been known to "off-gas" pollutants to interior environments. Houseplants can make your living space more attractive while protecting your health!

(Information taken from the NASA report *Interior Landscape Plants for Indoor Air Pollution Abatement*, September 1989, by Dr. B.C. Wolverton, Anne Johnson, and Keith Bounds, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, John C. Stennis Space Center, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000.)

Recycle!

If your neighborhood does not provide free recycling, there are drop-boxes around the city that will take recyclables for free. Go to <http://refuse.ci.columbus.oh.us/recycle/> to find one in your area. For curbside recycling for a small fee, go to www.rumpke.com.

Grow Your Own Food

Even small spaces have room for a container or two of tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, fresh herbs or whatever makes your mouth water. Growing your own food is the best way to control chemicals in your food and cut down on emissions from transportation. Many people notice that homegrown vegetables have more color, better texture and best of all, they taste better.

Get Involved In Local Groups

Getting involved locally is a great way to meet new people with similar interests, share resources and gain information. Here are some to consider:

Central Ohio Native Plant Society president-conps@safe-mail.net

Wild Ones Columbus Chapter for-wild.org/chapters/columbus

(More to be added)

Use c2c Certified Products When Possible

Cradle to Cradle certified products are made with the future in mind so that once the product is outdated, it can be recycled instead of becoming landfill waste. Products available include roofing materials, carpets, cleaning products and even diaper inserts. Please go to c2ccertified.com for more.

**For more great ideas, check out “100 Ways to Save The Environment” at
[http://www.seql.org/100ways.cfm?](http://www.seql.org/100ways.cfm)**