

10 Simple Things you can do to Protect the Environment

(August 2013)

1) Purchase LED or Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) to Replace Incandescent Bulbs

Benefits to the Environment: Standard incandescent bulbs waste 80%-90% of their energy on heat. LEDs and CFLs use much less energy and put it where it should go – providing light.

Benefits to you: The life of CFLs and LEDs are measured in years, whereas incandescent bulbs are measured in hours. The cost savings in energy use and replacement costs for CFLs and LEDs far outweigh the initial investment.

The Simple Steps to Take: With “soft white” coloring and dimmable features, CFLs and LEDs look identical to incandescent bulbs. Buy a few and replace incandescent bulbs over time.



2) Unplug Phantom Electric Loads

Benefits to the Environment: Chargers not charging and devices plugged in but turned off still use energy. Unplugging unused appliances cuts your energy usage.

Benefits to you: Reduced energy usage means reduced energy bills and energy savings.

The Simple Steps to Take: Use power strips to plug in lightly used devices and turn them off when not needed. Unplug old refrigerators and other appliances that are under-utilized.



3) Compost Leaves and Recycle

Benefits to the Environment: Composting leaves and recycling items removes them from the waste stream and reduces the amount of raw material needed.

Benefits to you: Composting and recycling helps the Township to save money (in fact, often they help *make* money), freeing up public resources.

The Simple Steps to Take: Haverford Township collects yard waste every Wednesday to compost and recycling every Thursday or Friday. Recycling bins can be picked up at the Township building.



4) Drop Off Hazardous Waste and E-Waste

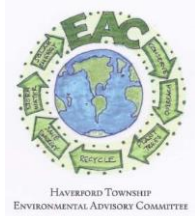
Benefits to the Environment: Electronic waste (TVs, computers, wiring, etc.) often contain materials that are very harmful to the environment including mercury, heavy metals, and other manufacturing by-products.

Benefits to you: Most of the material that is harmful to the environment are also harmful to people.

The Simple Steps to Take: Some home improvement superstores recycle items such as batteries and CFL bulbs. Larger items, such as televisions and computer monitors can be taken to local E-cycle events. Dates for these events are posted by Delaware County at www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/

The last Haverford E-cycle event collected 42,318 pounds of E-waste!





5) Use Rain Barrels at one or more Gutter Downspouts

Benefits to the Environment: Reduced stormwater runoff and pollution from sediment and soil erosion. Rainwater re-use reduces municipal freshwater usage.

Benefits to you: The water collected can be used to water lawns and gardens to help conserve water. In addition, collecting rainwater helps to reduce the water running off roofs and may help mitigate flooding in your yard and/or basement.

The Simple Steps to Take: Rain barrels can be purchased at any home improvement store and are very easy to install. In addition, groups like Darby Creek Valley Association (www.DCVA.org) or PA Resources Council (www.PRC.org) periodically host rain barrel workshops.



6) Request a Public Shade Tree for Your Front Yard

Benefits to the Environment: Trees have numerous benefits to the environment, including eliminating pollution (air and water) and providing habitats for a variety of birds and animals. Shade trees planted close to the road have the added benefit of increasing tree canopy cover for the whole township, reducing stormwater runoff and reducing the “heat island” effect of pavement. “Heat islands” capture heat in the summer and makes urban areas hotter, increasing energy demand, air conditioning costs, and negatively effecting water quality.

Benefits to you: Shade trees can help make your property more attractive, cooler in the summer, and help manage stormwater runoff.

The Simple Steps to Take: To request a shade tree, contact the Haverford Shade Tree Committee or the Haverford Tree Tenders at <http://treetenders.haverfordciviccouncil.org/>.

7) Try Earth-Friendly Lawn and Garden Tips

Benefits to the Environment: More natural lawn care products keep poisons out of creeks away from pets

Benefits to you: Lawns cut higher mean fewer weeds and a healthier lawn.

The Simple Steps to Take: Use native plants for gardens. They are used to the climate so they are easier to maintain than non-native plants.

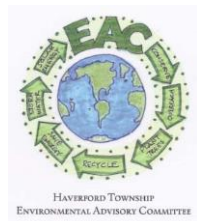


8) Perform Energy Audit on Your Home

Benefits to the Environment: Homes, especially older homes, are full of leaks and other small issues that waste energy. Performing an energy audit and taking appropriate follow-up can greatly cut your energy consumption and carbon footprint.

Benefits to you: Leaks, even small ones, can cost you hundreds, even thousands of dollars per year. Energy audits are often free services performed using an infrared camera or other techniques that can pinpoint these areas and help identify steps to mitigate them.

The Simple Steps to Take: Many companies perform these audits. Some names are provided here – *Note a listing here is not intended as an endorsement by the EAC or the Township.* They include: Orange Energy Services (based in Havertown) – (610) 449-2444; Green Home Solutions – (215) 970-9122; Start Smart Energy Use, LLC – (866) 638-8098; R. J. Little, LLC – (267) 573-6113; Be Energy Wise – (610) 761-0803; Lowry Eco Solutions – (484) 416-0161.



9) Use Environmentally Friendly Steps to Reduce Mosquitos/West Nile

Benefits to the Environment: Limiting the number of mosquitos can help to slow down the spread of many types of illnesses such as the West Nile virus. Note that this virus impacts not only humans, but has been found in other animals in PA such as birds and horses.

Benefits to you: Fewer mosquitos. Need another?

The Simple Steps to Take: Some tips can be found at the official state site for West Nile Virus control at: www.westnile.state.pa.us/. The easiest thing to do is eliminate standing water on your property often found in old tires, buckets, sometimes even bird baths. In addition, a naturally occurring-bacteria called Bti can be used in key locations. Bti kills mosquito larvae but is harmless to people, pets, and aquatic life. It can be purchased at lawn and garden stores and home improvement stores.

10) Use Permeable Pavement for Driveways/Patios

Benefits to the Environment: Less rain water goes into storm sewers and more rain water goes into the ground

Benefits to you: Bragging rights and feeling good for investing in best practices of storm water management

