



think **Green**

a guide to living a greener, cleaner life



think **Green** ... in the **Home**



Recycle, renew, it begins with you! If you aren't already doing so, begin to recycle.

Conserve electricity by turning off and un-plugging lights, appliances, and computers when not in use.

Turn down the thermostat, and lower your water heater to 120 degrees.

A 1-per-second drip can waste as much as seven gallons of water in one day, so fix leaky faucets.

Take showers instead of baths, since a five-minute shower uses nearly 28 gallons less water than a bath.

Inspect your attic to make sure it's properly insulated. You should have at least one foot of some type of insulation in the attic's floor to keep your home from losing cool air during summer months.

Check your refrigerator's temperature. It should be set to 38 to 40 degrees F; and the freezer, zero to five degrees. A fridge uses 20% of an average home's electricity.

Consider green building or remodeling when it comes to construction. For more information, click on the "Green Building" section of www.MyClearwater.com/Green.

Replace aging, inefficient appliances with those that use natural gas. For more information, call Clearwater Gas at (727) 669-1958.

Replace old toilets with ultra low-flow models. Rebates are available to customers who receive water from Pinellas County Utilities or the cities of Clearwater, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor or Tarpon Springs. To apply, request an application from the Rebate Office by calling (727) 725-2604.

think **Green** ... in **Transport**



As an alternative to driving alone to work, try carpooling, riding the bus, bicycling, walking, teleworking, or alternative work hour programs.

Wash your car at commercial car washes that recycle used water. If you hand-wash your car at home, use a hose with a shutoff nozzle so you aren't wasting water during washing.

When it's time to replace your car, consider buying a hybrid or other fuel-efficient vehicle.

Combine errands and trips as much as possible to reduce use of your vehicle.

Maintain your vehicle by stopping leaks, ensuring that tires are properly inflated, and servicing your vehicle regularly or as needed.

When boating, use pump-out stations as often as possible. The city offers scheduled pump-outs on Wednesday mornings. To make an appointment, call the [Marine & Aviation department](#) at (727) 462-6954.

Turn off your engine to save gasoline if you plan to idle in one location for a considerable amount of time.

If you can go without air conditioning, try not to use the system in driving situations that call for speeds under 55 miles an hour. This can save about six miles-per-gallon of gasoline if you just roll down the windows. The drag isn't too bad at lower speeds but increases the faster you go. On the highway, it's better to use air conditioning.

think **Green** ... in the **Yard**

Check your outdoor sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered, not the house, sidewalk, or street.

Be sure you are complying with designated **watering restrictions**.

When cleaning your fish tank, use the drained water for your garden or outdoor plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.

March and September are the months to fertilize lawns. Remember not to fertilize more than two times per year, as these chemicals in excess wash into our stormwater system.

Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly.

Don't pour anything down storm drains, as some pollutants will drain into creeks and rivers, and eventually into Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico.

Plant and properly maintain trees on your property. You need a permit for all tree removals except for four invasive plant species: Punk (cajeput), Brazilian Peppers, Australian Pines, and Chinese Tallow. For a tree removal permit or more information, call (727) 562-4746.

Learn and implement the art of Xeriscape, a landscaping method that uses drought-resistant plants to conserve water.

Hire an arborist to properly trim trees. Cutting them incorrectly can lead to insect infestation or growth damage.



think **Green** ... in **Shopping**



Practice selective shopping. Look for products with little or no packaging, like fresh produce or dry goods, and pick up some rechargeable batteries and long-life light bulbs.

Buy products with a high content of recycled materials, even if they cost a little more. Buying and using recycled items will help ensure the continuation and prosperity of our world.

Use your own reusable canvas or string bags when shopping. If you do opt for paper or plastic grocery bags, recycle them.

Reduce your junk mail by opting out of pre-approved financial offers and calling companies to request that they take your address off mailing lists.

Try to purchase locally grown food when you can. It will taste better because it's fresher and supports the local economy. The [Clearwater Farmer's Market](#) is a great place to start.

Purchase foods in bulk whenever possible. Doing so reduces packaging, which saves money and resources.

Buy meat and egg products that have been produced and harvested humanely.

Grow your own vegetable or herb garden and enjoy the freshness of home-grown vegetables.

think **Green** ... in the **Community**

Pick up your pet waste and properly dispose of it. The preferred method of disposal is picking it up with a plastic grocery bag and flushing it down the toilet, so it can be treated at a wastewater treatment facility. Recycle your plastic grocery bags on this task. Bagging it and placing it in the trash is acceptable, too.

Keep your pets indoors and abide by applicable leash laws.

Volunteer to work on urban forest, watershed restoration and cleanup projects in your community.

Volunteer to Adopt-a-Street. The Stormwater Maintenance division of Public Services coordinates the [Adopt-A-Street Program](#). Call (727) 562-4950, ext. 7207 for more information or to sign up.

Volunteer to Adopt-a-Highway. The State of Florida's Department of Transportation offers an [Adopt-a-Highway program](#).

Join a not-for-profit agency, like Keep Pinellas Beautiful or the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, to participate in beautification or water quality projects.

[Keep Pinellas Beautiful](#) – (727) 533-0402

[Tampa Bay Estuary Program](#) – (727) 893-2765

Sign up yourself or your children for environmental stewardship programs.

