

Eco-Friendly Resolutions

What can you do to help our environment in 2017?

1. Grow your own food
2. Install a rain barrel
3. Add clover to your lawn and let the dandelions bloom in spring – the flowers are a great source of food for bees!
4. Start a compost bin or pile
5. Make your yard bee friendly – avoid chemical applications and plant flowers and flowering trees
6. Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Farm or shop locally owned co-ops and farmer's markets
7. Buy organic when you can
8. Walk or bike your errands whenever possible
9. Combine errands and plan out the shortest driving routes
10. Take reusable bags to the store
11. Recycle plastic bags at retailers that provide the service
12. Review the recycling rules for your community and recycle everything you can
13. Learn about hazardous waste disposal and electronics recycling events in your community and make sure your items are disposed of properly
14. Repurpose containers when you can for storage or craft projects
15. Recycle old clothing in to crafts or cleaning rags
16. Purchase energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs
17. Line dry your laundry
18. Wash your clothing in cold water when possible
19. Use rags or sponges in place of paper towels
20. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth, wash your face, or wash dishes
21. Install aerators on your faucets to reduce water consumption
22. Take shorter showers
23. Invest in a programmable thermostat
24. Opt for reusable containers for storing food and packing lunches
25. Plant trees in your yard in places that will help keep your house cool in summer and warmer in winter
26. Use native plants in your landscaping
27. Carry a reusable water bottle
28. Fix leaky faucets, toilets, and showers to save water
29. Avoid purchasing "one-use" items such as plastic wrap
30. Unsubscribe from or cancel junk mail and catalogs
31. Choose paperless billing and statements
32. Reuse scrap paper
33. Get creative with gift wrapping – try a useful item such as a towel or recycle newspaper or paper bags
34. Set your thermostat a few degrees cooler
35. Reduce your food waste by making meals with leftovers or freezing foods before they go bad
36. Use cloth napkins instead of disposable paper napkins
37. Make your own environmentally friendly cleaning products
38. Run your dishwasher only when it's full
39. Use non-salted water from washing or cooking veggies, potatoes, or pasta to water plants in your home or yard – just make sure it's cooled first
40. Make sure your home is properly insulated
41. Turn down the temperature of your water heater
42. Carpool to work or events
43. Unplug "vampire appliances" that use electricity even when not in use
44. Print on both sides of the paper
45. Repair items rather than buying new
46. Donate unneeded items to charity rather than throwing them away
47. Check out Pinterest and other websites for unique ways to upcycle items you might normally throw away
48. Use the library to cut down the number of books and magazines you buy.
49. Buy locally made products
50. Borrow instead of buying
51. Teach a child to value nature
52. Commit to spending time outdoors everyday

