

Resolve to **Save** Calendar

Save money, make healthier choices, and reduce your environmental footprint with these small steps to help you reach your goals.

JANUARY

Cut energy costs with cozy tweaks

- **Set your ceiling fan to spin counterclockwise** to blow rising hot air back down towards you.
- **Turn the thermostat back 10-15°F for eight hours** when you're asleep or out of the house. If you do the same in the summer, you can save around 10% per year on your heating and cooling bills.

FEBRUARY

Soak up savings in the kitchen

- **Wash dishes in an ENERGY STAR-qualified dishwasher** instead of by hand to cut utility bills by more than \$100 per year, and to save yourself more than 230 hours of personal time annually.
- Your dishwasher uses about the same amount of energy and water per cycle, regardless of how much you fill it. Make the most of it by **running full loads as much as possible**.

MARCH

Power down during spring cleaning

- Having a light bulb moment? **Switch the five most frequently used light bulbs in your home for ones with the ENERGY STAR label** and you can save about \$45 each year.
- **Use warm or cold water to do the laundry.** About 90% of the energy it takes to operate a washing machine comes from heating the water; however, in most cases washing in cold water is sufficient.

APRIL

Give conservation some roots

- **Raise the blade on your lawn mower** to let the longer blades of grass shade each other. Aside from cutting down on weeds, this shade reduces evaporation, meaning the lawn requires less watering from you.
- **Check your sprinkler system** before the watering season begins. Just one broken sprinkler head can waste 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over the course of six months.

MAY

Waste not, want not

- **When it's time to replace an item in your home, consider buying used!** Opting to reuse rather than buy new reduces the amount of waste that will need to be sent to landfills.
- **Instead of printing hard copies of your documents, save them to your hard drive** or email them to yourself to save paper, and save yourself money on office supplies!

JUNE

See green at the gas pump

- **Obey posted speed limits.** Gas mileage drops quickly at speeds over 50 miles per hour. While costs vary depending on the vehicle, you can assume that every 5 mph you drive over 50 mph is like paying an additional \$0.24 per gallon of gas.
- **Don't drive aggressively!** On top of being unsafe, speeding, rapid acceleration, and sharp braking waste gas, thus lowering your car's gas mileage by 15-30% at highway speeds.

JULY

Put your cooling bills on ice

- **Switch your ceiling fan to spin counterclockwise.** With a ceiling fan, you can raise the thermostat by 4°F without sacrificing your comfort. Just make sure to shut it off when you leave the room!
- **Regularly clean and replace your cooling unit's air filter** to lower its energy consumption by 5-15%. This is the quickest way to save energy on home cooling!

AUGUST

Kick fuel savings into high gear

- **Switch off.** If you're idling your car for more than 10 seconds, you're likely using more fuel than you would to turn the engine off and restart it.
- **Check your tires regularly.** Under-inflated tires wear more quickly and can lower gas mileage by about 0.2% for every 1 psi drop in the average pressure of all tires. Properly inflated tires are safer and last longer.

SEPTEMBER

Reduce your carbon footprint

- **Walk, bike, or ride the bus instead of driving to school.** If driving is necessary, create a neighborhood carpool!
- **Make a plan to complete all your errands in as few trips as possible.** A warm engine has better fuel economy than a cold one, meaning you can save fuel and money by combining trips into one instead of taking multiple trips.

OCTOBER

Cut water usage and drink up the savings

- **Address leaky faucets as soon as possible.** While they may seem like just a nuisance, a leaky faucet that drips at a rate of one drop per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.
- Up for a challenge? **Calculate your water footprint** and get ideas for reducing your water use at home. See if you can conserve enough water to beat the national average of water use!

NOVEMBER

Go above and beyond traditional recycling

- **Think beyond paper and plastic.** If you have old electronics cluttering your home, look for local recycling options. Many electronics stores will accept old computers, phones, appliances, and television sets to recycle for free.
- Recycle non-traditional materials such as carpets and old household furniture. **Visit earth911.com to find more recycling solutions near you!**

DECEMBER

Celebrate conservation!

- **Give a gift that requires no packaging,** like a trip to a local park, wetland, or reserve!
- When decorating, **opt for energy-efficient LED lighting.** These bulbs consume 80% less energy than their traditional counterparts, and they last 25 times longer.