

Greening Top 10 Tips

1 Skip the bottled water.

Americans drank more than 8.25 billion gallons of bottled water in 2006. Production and transport of these bottles equals 4,000 tons of CO₂ generated each year, the equivalent of 700 cars. Less than one-quarter of these bottles are recycled, leaving 2 billion pounds to clog landfills. City of Meridian tap water meets or exceeds the quality of most bottled waters, so “tap” into green.

2 Install CFL lightbulbs.

Using a 26-watt compact fluorescent lightbulb—equivalent to a 100-watt incandescent lightbulb—can save up to \$59 on energy costs over the life of the bulb. Plus, compact fluorescent lightbulbs last for years.

3 Avoid ATM receipts.

The receipts from 8 billion ATM transactions every year are one of the biggest sources of litter on the planet. Leaving the receipt in the machine will save a roll of paper more than 2 billion feet long—enough to circle the equator more than 15 times!

4 Drive gently.

Save 10 to 20% in your gasoline budget by accelerating gently, and ease off sooner as you approach a stop.

5 Check tire pressure.

Under-inflated tires reduce your vehicle’s gas mileage and over-inflated tires wear out prematurely. Check your tire pressure monthly.

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Commit to zero-idling.

Idling, especially at drive-throughs, wastes fuel and is hard on today's engines. Try to idle no more than 10 seconds to save money and reduce air pollution.



7

Think when you eat.

If we all gave up one napkin a day, we could save a billion pounds of paper waste from going to landfills a year. Every morning, start out with one cup and use it all day. Having morning coffee? Take your own mug and avoid paper and styrofoam.



8

Analyze cleaning supplies.

Chemicals in many cleaning products end up in local wastewater systems and eventually in waterways. Cleaners should be free of phosphates, nitrilotriacetic acid and ammonia. Look for those made from plant-based ingredients, a renewable resource. Avoid aerosols, which can't be recycled. Some aerosol ingredients contribute to air pollution. Look for spray bottles, liquids, powders and roll-ons.



9

Choose efficiency.

Choose the highest possible "A" rating when purchasing energy and water efficient appliances. When washing clothes, use cold water.



10

Recycle and reuse.

Start with your newspaper—spread sheets in your flower bed and cover with mulch to keep weeds out; line the vegetable drawer of your refrigerator to keep it smelling fresh; ripen green tomatoes by wrapping them in a few sheets; wash your windows by soaking sheets in a mixture of equal parts water and white vinegar.

