

2008 City of Chicago Green Pavilion

[Station 1 Copy]

Be Green. Save Green.

Who doesn't like to save money? Put more green in your pocket – as much as \$700 annually – and help conserve energy and offset climate change, just by taking some simple steps.

Lower your utility bills. Save on gasoline. It all comes down to using less energy. When you use less energy, you also reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global warming.

The City of Chicago can help. Follow our simple steps and reap the rewards – for your wallet and the planet.

Save Money

Visit the stations to see how you can save up to \$700 a year.

* Actual figure is \$692.

Reduce Greenhouse Gases

A reduction of one metric ton (MT) of greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to driving 2,500 fewer miles or removing a third of a car from the road.

Learn how you can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by up to 3 MT – the equivalent of driving a car for a year.

* Actual figure is 2.62.

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Turn Off

Save \$5, four gallons of water and .003 metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions a year by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth. A faucet that runs for five minutes uses as much energy as a 60-watt light bulb lit for 14 hours.

Faucet Aerators

Faucet aerators are a cheap and easy way to conserve water. They reduce the amount of water flowing from your faucet, with little effect on water pressure.

Rain Barrels

The Chicago Departments of Environment and Water Management can help you conserve water. Buy one of our discounted rain barrels to collect rainwater for use in your garden. Rain barrels also help reduce neighborhood flooding and improve water quality in rivers and streams.

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Plant

Clean the air and save energy by planting or caring for trees. Mature trees on your property can improve the real estate value of your home by as much as 20%.

Greencorps Chicago

The Chicago Department of Environment can help you plant trees and gardens in your community through our Greencorps Chicago program. Greencorps Chicago works with block clubs, schools and other groups to green Chicago communities.

You can also volunteer to plant trees at the gateways to Chicago by working with Chicago Gateway Green (gatewaygreen.org) or become a TreeKeeper with Openlands (openlands.org).

One Seed Chicago

Join One Seed Chicago, a program developed by NeighborSpace (neighbor-space.org) and the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance (garfield-conservatory.org). Each growing season, One Seed Chicago selects one type of seed to plant and celebrate. This year's seed is the sunflower.

Did You Know?

If every Chicagoan planted or cared for a tree, we could cut greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million tons – the equivalent of driving a car to the sun and back 16 times.

[Station 4 Copy]

Unplug

Save \$20 a year in energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by .128 metric ton by unplugging electronic equipment and appliances when not in use. Appliances that are turned off but plugged-in still consume electricity. Power strips make turning off appliances easy.

Buy Energy Star

When buying appliances, look for the Energy Star label for the highest energy efficiency rating. With the help of Energy Star, Americans saved enough energy in 2007 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 27 million cars – all while saving \$16 billion on utility bills.

[Station 5 Copy]

Lighten Up

Save more than \$100 a year and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by .602 metric ton by replacing nine regular incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer.

A Bright Idea

A flick of a switch shows how much less energy a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) uses than an incandescent bulb. When the CFL is on, the wattage meter turns slower, which means less energy – and money – are consumed. *Demonstration courtesy of Chicago Conservation Corps Leader Carla Winterbottom.*

Smart Bulbs

Take advantage of the Chicago Department of Environment's Smart Bulb program, a partnership with the Northern Illinois Energy Project (citizensutilityboard.org/energysavings) and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (mwalliance.org), and receive a free CFL.

Flip the Switch

Save nearly \$15 a year and reduce your emissions by .080 metric ton simply by turning off three 60-watt bulbs for two hours a day.

[Station 6 Copy]

Get Out

Save \$76 a year and .223 metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating the equivalent of one 10-mile car trip a week. It's simple: leave your car at home and walk, bike or take public transit instead. The exercise will make you feel better, too.

Bike 2015 Plan

The City of Chicago's Bike 2015 Plan, coordinated by the Chicago Department of Transportation, aims to make bicycling an integral part of daily life in Chicago. By completing a bikeway network, making Chicago streets safe and convenient for bicycling and more, the plan seeks to increase bicycle use so that 5% of all trips less than five miles are by bicycle.

The Department of Fleet Management, already a leader in using alternative fuels, is launching a new bicycle fleet for city employees.

Tune Up

Save an average of \$331 a year and one metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions by keeping your car maintained and the tires adequately inflated.

[Station 7 Copy]

Adjust

Save \$130 a year and decrease your greenhouse gas emissions by more than half a metric ton simply by turning your thermostat down three degrees in winter and up three degrees in summer.

Green Roof & Cool Roof Grants

The Chicago Department of Environment can help you heat and cool your property more efficiently through our Green Roof and Cool Roof grants. Green roofs, like the one planted on Chicago's City Hall, and cool roofs, which use special materials to reflect the sun's heat, save on energy costs and extend roof life.

Keep it Clean

Save an average of \$15 a year in energy costs and cut your greenhouse gas emissions by .083 metric ton by cleaning and replacing the filters in your furnace and air conditioners.

Weatherize

The Chicago Department of Environment holds free Winter Preparedness Fairs each year to help Chicagoans have a comfortable and safe winter. Attend a fair and receive a free weatherization kit, including window plastic, weather stripping, insulation, compact fluorescent light bulbs, weatherization tips and more.

These days, all sorts of reused materials serve as building insulation – even blue jeans.

[Station 8 Copy]

Reuse

If all Chicagoans stopped using plastic bags, we could eliminate 601 million bags. Because plastic bags come from petroleum, that would mean saving enough oil to travel nearly 43 million miles – or nearly halfway to the sun.

Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Center

The Chicago Department of Environment can help you reuse, reduce and recycle. Drop off hazardous waste at our Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Center, 1150 N. North Branch, or at our special hazardous waste collection events.

Recycle

In a unique partnership with Computers for Schools (pcsforschools.org), donated computers are refurbished for use by nonprofit organizations. If a computer cannot be salvaged, it is broken down, and the parts are sold to support ongoing programs.

Home Composters

The Departments of Environment and Streets & Sanitation offer discounted composters to reuse and recycle your garden waste and kitchen scraps, turning them into a rich, organic fertilizer for your soil.

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Start Today

Sign up here to join the Chicago Department of Environment's email list, and receive a free Smart Bulb. We'll send you information about events and programs that can help you be green and save green.

Chicago Conservation Corps

Join neighbors, family and friends in improving the environment in your community through our Chicago Conservation Corps. Learn more about it and other Department of Environment programs at cityofchicago.org/environment.

Tour

Visit the Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento, and enjoy a free self-guided tour of a nationally renowned green building. Free guided tours of Green Tech are available for groups of 10 or more.

Green Building Resource Center

Stop by the Chicago Department of Environment's Green Building Resource Center at Green Tech for ideas about how to make your home more eco-friendly. While you're there, look for our Green Home Remodeling Guides.