



## A NEW YEAR, A NEW GREENER YOU

What New Year's resolutions did you set for 2011? Most people set resolutions like losing weight, quitting smoking, or healthier eating. Consider setting some green resolutions too. The City's **Climate Action Plan** has set an ambitious goal for Portland to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. As you practice reducing your carbon footprint, you might even save a little money too!

Below are tips we've covered in past editions of Green Matters to help you start the year a little greener.

### Live greener at home

- Recycle as much as possible. Cutting down on trash reduces the size of your trash container, thus reducing your monthly garbage bill.
- Take reusable shopping bags and avoid using plastic bags at the grocery store. Plastic bags take about **500 years to break down** in landfills and many stores give you a 5¢ discount for each reusable bag.
- Switch to LED light bulbs. They may be a little more expensive than other bulbs, but they will last much longer and reduce your monthly electric bill.
- Insulate and weatherize your home. This **improves indoor air quality** and could increase the value of your home. You may also qualify for tax credits and rebates through both **state** and **federal** programs.
- Avoid idling your car. Turn off your engine in drive-thru lines and while waiting for construction or bridges. **Read more tips for saving gas.**
- Check toilets for leaks – an easy test is to put a little food coloring in the tank. Without flushing, if you see color appearing in the bowl, you have a leak that needs repair.
- Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. The Water Bureau offers free water conservation devices to all its customers. **Read details online** or order by phone 503-823-4527.

### Live greener at work

- Use public transportation, walk, or bike when possible, or carpool to work. The City's **T.R.I.P.** program offers great incentives.
- Minimize printing and print double sided as much as possible.
- Used paper can be made into scratch pads or for printing drafts. **Read more paper reduction tips.**
- Turn off your computer, monitor, and laptop at the end of the day. Over the course of the year, **this saves approximately \$90** for each work station.
- Switch off conference room and kitchen lights when not being used.
- If you haven't done so already, **switch to electronic pay stubs**. It saves the City time and money, and is more safe and secure for you.
- Take advantage of composting. Composting bins are available in most break rooms, including the Portland Building, City Hall, the 1900 Building, BOEC, and the Revenue Bureau.



### Dig Deeper

**Portland Climate Action Now!** Easy tips for making everyday decisions.  
**Green Matters Archive** Read past editions you may have missed.