Sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY
13 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ECO-FRIENDLY

1

GO GREEN WITH HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

You can now make sustainable choices with everything from cleaning products to paper products. Choose reusable bags and containers, LED light bulbs, toilet paper, low-flow shower heads and toilets, French-press coffee makers, water filters (instead of water bottles), environmentally friendly paint, linens, beauty products, the list goes on!

2

SWITCH-UP YOUR LAUNDRY ROUTINE

You can make eco-friendly choices with your laundry detergent and go green with dryer balls (instead of dryer sheets). Consider washing your clothes in cold water and line dry whenever possible. Finally, clean your dryer vent – you'll be amazed at what comes out!

3

CHOOSE COMPOSTING

Food waste in landfills generates methane, a greenhouse gas. Cut your carbon footprint by composting food scraps. *CompostNow.org* is a great program if you're looking for an easy solution to start composting.

4

PICK ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

When it's time to swap out that old refrigerator, washer or other appliance with a new one, look to see if it's certified by *Energy Star*, which denotes products that meet a high level of energy efficiency.

5

INSULATE YOUR HOME

By insulating your heating ducts, roof, attic, and windows you can save money on heating bills and conserve energy throughout your home.

6

EXPLORE SOLAR ENERGY

Solar power can be harnessed to create electricity for your home, to heat water, and to improve indoor lighting. The *U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy* can help you find the right solar solutions for you.

7

RECYCLE CORRECTLY

The following are all approved for curbside recycling in Atlanta: aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, all hard plastic food containers and plastic bottles, cartons, paper, newspaper, magazines, mail, and flattened cardboard.

You cannot recycle plastic bags, any food contaminated items (like a pizza box), Styrofoam, or packing materials (like peanuts or tissue paper). And do not bag recyclables!

For more information go to: *https://www.atlantaga.gov/recycling.*

8

PLANT A TREE

Through the non-profit, *Trees Atlanta*, Property owners in Atlanta, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Decatur, Sandy Springs, and Unincorporated DeKalb County are eligible to have trees planted in their yard at little or no cost. Canopy trees can lower summer temperatures, reduce energy consumption, and add to the beauty and character of your neighborhood.

Speaking of trees, when landscaping, choose native plants to Atlanta as these will require less watering and maintenance. Finally, create clean air with houseplants; they also have the added bonus of making your home more welcoming!

9

GO ELECTRIC

Cars are a major cause of global warming, mainly due to the amount of pollution that they emit. Consider swapping your diesel or gas car for an electric or hybrid car. Not only are there tax incentives, you will also save money on gas!

10

SHOP LOCAL

The shorter the food chain, the less waste created before it reaches your kitchen. Local butchers and farmer's markets are a great place to shop for your food. Consider also picking one day a week to go meatless.

11

UPGRADE TO A SMART THERMOSTAT

A smart thermostat will have a setting like Eco-Mode that automatically drops the temperature when you're not home.

12

REPLACE YOUR OLD AIR CONDITIONER

Did you know replacing a 10-year-old window or central AC unit with an *Energy Star* model can cut your cooling costs by 30 to 50 percent? Your wallet and the environment will be happy you made this greener purchase.

13

UNPLUG

Unplug electronics whenever not in use to save electricity. If you don't have time to pull every lamp and charger out of the outlet when you leave the house, use a power strip instead—it'll leave you with just a single thing to unplug.