

Why visit GreenerChoices.org?

- ✓ You can access free green buying guides for appliances, cars, food, electronics, and home and garden products.
- ✓ You can find out which products can be recycled and where.
- ✓ You can find out the most effective ways to reduce your carbon footprint.
- ✓ You can find out what eco-labels such as “free range” and “fair trade” really mean.

And much more...



printed on 30% post-consumer
recycled paper

WHAT YOU CAN DO

8 tips to help you save money and energy, and fight global warming:

- 1. Program your thermostat.** Doing so can slash heating costs by up to 20 percent per year.
- 2. Add insulation.** Properly insulating your home can save hundreds of dollars a year on energy bills and pay for itself in as little as two years.
- 3. Save money on hot water.** Lowering your water-heater temperature from 130 to 120 degrees and insulating the hot water pipes can save up to 5 percent on your energy bill.
- 4. Use space heaters wisely.** The cost of electricity to run several electric space heaters is likely to be more than running a furnace.
- 5. Replace worn-out windows.** Replacing old, single-pane windows beyond simple repairs can save between 10 and 25 percent on heating.
- 6. Understand Energy Star.** Energy Star appliances are typically more efficient than others and generally cost less to run.
- 7. Avoid energy scams.** Beware of pitches that promise to save you big bucks on heating bills.
- 8. Change your light bulbs.** Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) can save at least \$30 in energy costs; using dimmer switches can also save energy. Note that CFLs contain mercury and should be recycled after use.

For more information on these and other energy-saving tips, visit the Global Warming Solutions Center on GreenerChoices.org.



What's Green about Consumers Union?

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ConsumerReports 
GreenerChoices.orgSM
Products for a Better Planet

WHAT CU IS DOING

At Consumers Union, we're committed to finding ways to reduce our environmental impact while fulfilling our mission to test, inform, and protect consumers. Here are some highlights:

OUR INFORMATION PRODUCTS

- On Earth Day in 2005, we launched GreenerChoices.org, a free environmental Web site that features greener products and lifestyle choices.
- We regularly test products for environmental attributes such as energy and water efficiency, and are testing increasingly more environmentally preferable products.
- *Consumer Reports* magazine is made from a mixture of recycled and independently certified paper from well-managed forests.
- The *Consumer Reports* Buying Guides are made from 100% recovered fiber.
- Many of our direct mailings are made from paper that contains environmentally preferable ground wood content.
- In 2007, our Publishing Division helped launch the "Please Recycle This Magazine" logo; the logo is now on the masthead of all of our print publications.

OUR BUILDING

- Our "ice storage" air conditioning system is significantly more efficient than a conventional one.
- Automatic light sensors have been installed throughout the facility to reduce electricity use; lighting automatically defaults to 'off' after-hours.
- Our building's atrium is full of plants that grow under natural light during the spring and summer.
- Energy-efficient ceiling fans have been installed in high use areas to evenly distribute warm air.
- We conserve water by using low-flow plumbing fixtures and by using well water to irrigate our grounds.
- We recycle plastic, glass, and paper products, as well as rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent lighting products.
- We've installed carpeting made with recycled content that is also 100% recyclable.
- We selectively use paint and carpeting adhesives that are low or free of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) to reduce indoor air pollution.
- Our cafeteria vendor offers food safety and sustainability information and has started to offer organic choices.

- During peak energy use periods, our Facilities Department implements energy-saving measures and distributes energy-saving suggestions to employees.
- We encourage greener commuting by offering a daily shuttle service between train stations and CU's headquarters, and by facilitating the use of a car sharing service.

OUR I.T. DEPARTMENT

- We now use only energy-efficient LCD (liquid crystal display) computer monitors.
- All new desktop computers meet the environmentally preferable "silver" standard of the Electronic Product and Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) program.
- We encourage using recycled printer cartridges purchased from a local vendor and recycling them after use.
- All of our copy machines are set up to facilitate double-sided printing.
- All of our letter-sized copy paper contains 30% post-consumer recycled content and is chlorine-free.