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ENVIRO-TIPS

Green Lite

It can be a daunting task trying to “go green.” So instead of jumping with both feet into the deep end of the dark green pool (which sounds a bit unappetizing anyway), try starting with a lighter shade of green. Take it easy. Even baby steps can have a big impact, especially if taken by a good percentage of people. I know you’ve certainly heard this one before, but lighting is easy. Go compact-fluorescent (CFL) or, even better, LED and you’ll likely even save money while being “green.”

Permanently dial back the AC and/or heat. If changing personal and family comfort levels is not for you, use the program feature of your programmable thermostat (we all have those by now, right?) to set the temperature in your home to appropriately fluctuate based on when it is most likely to be occupied or empty. Either of those options will certainly save you money.

Still with me? Then, try changing some habits that probably *won't* save you any money. Make use of the Ridgefield Recycling Center on South Street. Even if you have curbside pick-up, find out exactly what your hauler picks up and make sure you properly sort your recyclables. If some recyclable items are not picked up, start separating them from your garbage and visit the RRC. As a fun experiment (for you and/or the kids), try weighing your garbage each week before and after separating recyclables.

Next step? Start composting and get some nice, rich soil for your yard while you watch the weight of garbage leaving your home decrease dramatically.

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