Energy Savings Ideas that save money and greenhouse gas pollution

Homes & buildings (from no cost to low cost and investments):
In the US, buildings account for almost half of the energy consumed and greenhouse gases emitted.

- ❑ Turn off computers and lights not being used and unplug appliances if not used often. Many appliances use electricity even when they are off.
- ❑ Saving water and fixing leaks reduces water pumping energy consumption.
- ❑ Lower the thermostat when you're sleeping or away for extended periods.
- ❑ When possible use zones rather than heat/cool the whole building, for example close registers and/ or doors to reduce flow to unoccupied rooms.
- ❑ Set your water heater to 126° F, this is hot enough to kill bacteria.
- ❑ Clean baseboards, AC and refrigerator coils to increase efficiency.
- ❑ Replace or clean air filters in furnaces and air conditioners. Regular changing can also improve the homes' air quality.
- ❑ Trim or remove shrubs shading south and west windows in the winter, though summer shade is desirable for cooling.
- ❑ Close drapes on summer days and winter nights.
- ❑ Organize the refrigerator so everyone can find things quickly so the door can be closed sooner.
- ❑ Use canvas shopping bags- they're stronger and less energy & resource dependent than paper or plastic bags and eliminate disposal/recycling issues.
- ❑ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents which use $\frac{1}{4}$ of the electricity and last 10 x longer.
- ❑ Try rechargeable batteries, less waste & longer lasting.
- ❑ Insulate your hot water piping.
- ❑ Consider motion detector switches that turn lights on & off automatically. Confirm compatibility with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- ❑ An Energy Efficiency Assessment can identify the best improvement opportunities and provide an economic analysis to avoid making unnecessary investments.
- ❑ Seal cracks in your home by weather stripping, caulking or foaming gaps. Air sealing stops not only drafts and pests but reduces moisture penetration and outside noise.
- ❑ Choose *Energy Star* appliances. For example, replacing a 10 year old refrigerator w/ an Energy Star model should save at least $40/ year in electricity; savings are even better from older models.
- ❑ Add insulation to reduce the heating and cooling load. Air seal before insulating or expect moisture problems from condensation.
- ❑ Install a *clean fuel* solar energy system to produce hot water or electricity and take advantage of federal tax credits.

- Windows are complex; newer efficient models have ratings that optimize what direction the windows face. It's most important to seal leaks and caulk around the window. Be wary of deals that are too good to be true, new windows installed poorly can waste more energy than the original ones.

Transportation:

The US accounts for 30% of the world's vehicles, but we emit nearly half of the world's automotive CO2 emissions. We drive more and our cars are less efficient.

- Keep tires inflated.
- Avoid idling, more than 10 seconds is a waste of fuel.
- Plan trips to avoid wasted miles and congestion when possible.
- Accelerate evenly, drive smoothly and avoid frequent changes in speed like hard braking by coasting and leaving room (unless you have regenerative brakes).
- Cruise control is more efficient, use when conditions permit.
- Stick to the limit, each 5 mph over 60 costs about 15 cents more per mile.
- Eliminate unnecessary weight and roof racks out of season. Closed windows reduce drag particularly at highway speeds.
- Consider alternate transportation- car pooling, walking, biking, and public transport.
- Get regular tune ups for improved mileage, saving are estimated at 165 gallons/year.
- Purchase the most fuel efficient automobile that meets your needs.
- Consider having a people mover for the whole family and a higher MPG car for the one w/ longest daily drive.

Remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to lower your impact on our environment. Get everyone (the whole family or all employees) involved to find hidden energy wasters.