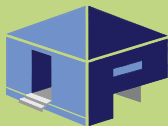


# TIPS TO BEING GREEN

- o Don't stick your old fridge in the garage just to keep a few items cold. Austin Energy will give you \$50 for your working fridge and they will be sure that it doesn't end up in a landfill.
- o Eliminate "vampire power" by plugging your electronics into a power strip and turning it off when they aren't in use.
- o Make a game out of your electric bill. If the kilowatt consumption is lower than the previous month, take the family out for ice cream or a nice treat. This should increase your family's awareness of turning out the lights and turning the t.v. off when they leave the room.
- o Plant a tree! Along with TreeFolks, the city of Austin gives homeowners free trees.
- o Install a solar water heater and get a rebate from Austin (\$1,500 for new homes and \$2,000 for existing homes).
- o If looking to make improvements around your house, take out a loan with Austin Energy. They are offering a zero-interest loan to install things like solar shading on your windows, attic insulation, air duct sealing, etc.
- o Install a programmable thermostat! The city of Austin provides these for FREE!
- o Replace carpets with hardwood flooring such as laminated hardwoods, tile, or finished concrete.
- o Use paint with low levels of volatile organic compounds (Low-VOC), which pollutes soil, groundwater, and air.
- o Use your microwave as an oven substitute because it's far more energy efficient than an oven and doesn't heat up the kitchen as much.
- o Turn a single-headed faucet for hot and cold water to the "cold" position when turning it off. Even off, it takes up a lot of energy if left in the "hot" position because the hot water tank is still engaged.

\*\*You can find out more about this in the April 2009 issue of Austin Monthly Magazine\*\*

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