



LIVING GREEN JOURNAL

Household Staff Turns Green

CO₂ gas, which negatively affects the environment and the climate, is emitted into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels for transportation, utilities, manufacturing, food production, and even recreation. How can we really make a difference? The average U.S. citizen's lifestyle produces 20 tons of CO₂ per year, compared to the affluent lifestyle of 125 tons of CO₂. That means that an affluent family of 4 produces over 500 tons of CO₂ gas per household annually!



Through our new Living Green Journal we will explore ways to make a real difference in our clients' active and busy households by teaching them and their household staff ways to reduce the carbon footprint per household. The first topic is setting up your home recycling program.

Recycling can be a very rewarding venture; it can also be a pain. In the past we simply dropped everything into the trash bin not thinking about it's impact. Now we have to think about it: is it newspaper, cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, copper, brass, or wood and can it be recycled? And if so, then where does it go?

Here are some simple tips to help you and your household staff make a difference.

garage and smaller containers inside the home for daily collection.

2. Containers: Make sure your containers are well-labeled and large enough to hold all the items until 'recycle day'. Active households routinely underestimate the amount of recyclables used each day.

3. Management: Decide who among you will be responsible for taking care of the bins and the areas around them. Get your staff involved; ask them for ideas on storage location and labeling of recycling bins. Having staff involved offers them ownership of a special project and a way to reward a job well done.

4. Training: Set aside some time to train your staff; they will need your help and guidance. Explain your recycling goals and why this is important. They will need simple instruction on what is paper, aluminum or tin, glass, etc., and what needs to be washed before it is placed into the recycle bins. Show them examples e.g. the paper around a new bar of soap, the empty glass jar of honey, the aluminum dog food can, old newspapers, and food packaging. The time spent with your staff will go a long way to making your recycling program a huge success especially if you have staff who speak English as a second language. It will take some time and your encouragement for them to become accustomed to 'thinking green' and not placing the items directly into the trash. If you need help setting up the program, just ask the experts.

5. Commitment: Lead by example. Your successful recycling program will be both an inspiration to your friends and a lifesaver for your community.

Green & Safe Tip: Shredding papers from your home office is a must. Identity theft is on the rise and leaving sensitive papers intact is an invitation for disaster. Make sure to have your staff shred these papers before they are placed into the recycle bins.

Common household items that can be recycled:

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Catalogues
- Phone books
- Envelopes
- Junk mail
- Computer paper
- Tin cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Corrugated cardboard
- Food boxes
- Plastic bottles
- Egg cartons
- Aluminum foil
- Aluminum cans
- Milk and juice cartons

Did you know?

Recycling a 4-foot stack of newspapers saves the equivalent of a 40-foot fir tree.



Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild the entire commercial airline fleet every six months.

