

Did you know...

- The Chesapeake Bay—the world's largest estuary—is choking to death. Each year, roughly 300 million pounds of polluting nitrogen reaches the Bay. That nitrogen comes primarily from water treatment plants, farms (our food supply), coal plants generating our electricity, tailpipes moving us around, and runoff from our yards and roads.
- Climate Change—which *is* caused from our over-use of fossil fuels—is making the oceans more acidic, endangering thousands of animals from whales to plankton. It is also raising sea levels, making islands disappear, and causing saltwater intrusion in soils.
- The Arctic and Antarctic ice shelves are melting at accelerating rates, which will mess with the oceans' chemistry and sea life's ability to adapt, exacerbate sea level rise, and take away habitat for all sorts of animals big and small.
- Coral reef loss—caused by bleaching, acidification, and disease from pollution and climate change—is accelerating at record-setting levels. Often called "rainforests of the sea", coral reefs occupy less than 0.1% of the world ocean surface, yet provide a home for **25% of all marine species**.

The fix is in your hands. START with these action items—which, at the same time, will help make your home healthier, comfier, and cheaper to live in. Talk about win-win-win-win. Have more questions or project ideas? Give us a call!

USE LESS WATER

1. Install a **high-performance low-flow showerhead**. It takes 5 minutes with a small cost and big impact. Great performers—we love the Hansgrohe E75 Croma Green model—use as little as 1.5 gallons per minute (GPM) versus the standard 2.6 GPM. That's a 40% slash, which saves mega bucks on your water and sewer bill AND the energy to heat that water. Bonus: the Hansgrohe Croma is made in Atlanta, USA—meaning it supports our own economy and jobs, and has a lower transit footprint.
2. Install **dual-flush toilets** (the Toto Aqua is a proven all star), which save the average family 25 gallons everyday. And the best models work great and don't clog up.
3. Buy an **Energy Star** rated dishwasher and "vertical axis" clothes washer.
4. **Filter your drinking and shower water** to remove chemicals, pesticides, and cleaning agents often found in it.
5. Use "green" **soaps**, household cleaners, and laundry detergents. They skip the chemicals that pollute our waterways and choke marine life—as well as cause allergic reactions and other health concerns. Yes, there are lines that clean great!

BURN LESS DINOSAURS

1. If you still haven't **changed your lights**, swap for CFLs and LEDs.
2. Install a **programmable thermostat**—and *program it!* Set it to power down the HVAC when nobody is home and at night.
3. **Kill your vampire loads** (that's electricity used by gadgets that are supposedly turned off) by using Smart Strip power strips on your PC & peripherals and your TV-VCR-DVD-Cable Box-Xbox-Wii-Audio. Use Kill-A-Watt meters & PowerCost Monitors to hunt them down and track your energy use (this knowledge can save you 20%).
4. Get an energy audit to get the big picture on what's going on with your home and make the biggest fixes.
5. Weatherize. Caulk, weatherstripping, spray foam, door sweeps, and Chimney Balloons around doors, windows, chimneys, and other cracks, gaps, and holes make a huge difference to plug leaks and stop bad air.
6. After you've deftly shrunk your demand, supply your energy needs by tapping the wind and sun to provide your electric supply.

DECORATE RIGHT

1. Your woods (floors, cabinetry, trim, etc.) should be either **reclaimed** (made from old barns, warehouses, and such) or **FSC Certified**. FSC is important to preserve forests because they help to (1) manage oxygen, carbon, and other atmospheric elements that help the oceans; (2) filter sediment and pollution that can end up in waterways and oceans; (3) provide habitat for animals that also play, migrate, and hunt in our rivers, lakes and oceans.
2. Paints, countertops, furniture, and many other fixtures with the "greenest" features take care to prevent pollution of waterways and airways when they're manufactured, shipped, and used.

WHAT'S IN THE KITCHEN?

1. Buy responsible seafood. Use the Marine Stewardship Council (**MSC**) **Certified** and **Seafood Watch** labels. Go to www.msc.org and <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.aspx> for details and to download their pocket buying guides.
2. Organic foods don't use pesticides that poison the waters, and they take better care of soils—which reduces sediment pollution into waters.

CHAMPION THE GOSPEL AT WORK, HOME, AND IN BETWEEN

Get your coworkers hooked. Programs like our SWEET Benefits and "green teams" can help. Ask how.

Take **13% off** the tools to get you started, including showerheads, water filters, toilets, weatherizing gear, energy monitors, soaps/cleaners, and lightbulbs.

Expires 12/15/2010. Not valid with other promotions/specials.

