

What are you going to do with the Money you Save?



1. Go Carbon Neutral

One of the easiest ways to start offsetting is to tackle something simple like your driving or air travel. The average driver can offset their vehicle emissions for about \$50.00 per year. Drive Neutral offers a simple on-line, tax-deductible method at http://www.liveneutral.com/what_we_do_individuals. TerraPass provides simple methods for obtaining flight offsets at <http://www.terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-calculator/>. For more options with other companies, check out reviews at http://www.ecobusinesslinks.com/carbon_offset_wind_credits_carbon_reduction.htm.

2. Invest

How about saving more, earning a good return, and investing in green or socially responsible funds? Two funds that have been around for a while include Pax World Fund and The Calvert Group. A Nurtured World, Inc. has also been collaborating on workshops with Tom Chancellor, a certified financial planner, who has a wealth of information on sustainable investing. If you are interested in more details regarding sustainable investing, Tom can be reached at 888-244-1163.

3. Build Green

Building or remodeling green will help you save even more money. For general information, check out: at www.toolbase.org and www.homes-across-america.org, or, you can use information from Austin Energy's nationally recognized program at: www.austinenergy.com/Energy%20Efficiency/Programs/Green%20Building

4. Shop

If you are going to spend money, information and points to remember include:

- Shop Light - as a rule of thumb, the heavier something is the more environmental impact it has.
- The Green Pages™ is a directory of thousands of socially and environmentally responsible businesses, products and services. www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages.
- The Center for a New American Dream has its "Guide to Environmentally Preferable Purchasing" on-line at www.newdream.org.
- Reusable Bags promotes products like "lead-free" lunch bags for the kids and non-plastic/reusable water bottles like "SIGG bottles" at www.reusablebags.com.
- Check out home products from Seventh Generation: www.seventhgeneration.com.
- The "Tree Hugger" Web Site has also a wealth of information on products: www.treehugger.com.
- And don't forget about getting it free or cheap (used) at places like Freecycle (www.freecycle.org), Ebay, Craig's List, and your local library.

5. Donate

Pick a local or national cause and help to make a difference by donating some of the money you saved. You can find an overview of environmental organizations that use their money well at <http://www.fundraiserinsight.org/articles/environmentalfundraising.html>.