



EARTH KEEPERS

Sponsored by the
Superior Watershed Partnership
& the Cedar Tree Institute

KEEP THIS CHECKLIST AT HOME: Earth Keeper Home Checklist

Confronting Climate Change in the Upper Peninsula Through Energy and Water Conservation

DIRECTIONS: The Earth Keeper checklist is a series of no-cost and low-cost things you can do around the house that are proven to save energy, save water and save money! Please note: there are two copies of the Checklist (one to keep and one to fill-out and return). Simply take the checklist home, walk through your house (involve everyone in the family) and start checking off any energy conservation actions you have recently taken or that you will implement in the near future.

Then, during the month of April, return your checklist to your Earth Keeper congregation or directly to the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP). The SWP will then compile the data and calculate the total carbon reduction (in tons) for the Upper Peninsula. Based on the record-breaking success of past Earth Keeper events it is anticipated that this month-long event will once again break national pollution prevention records and help protect our environment!

Conserve Energy to Save Money and Reduce Climate Change

- Lower Your Lighting Costs:** Increasing your lighting efficiency is one of the fastest ways to decrease your electric bills. Turn off the lights when not in use. Consider installing timers and replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs use up to 1/4 the electricity and last up to 10 times longer! Contact the SWP for CFL clean-up and recycling options.
- Improve Your Gas Mileage:** Keep current with car maintenance. Clean air filters can improve mileage as much as 10%, properly inflated and aligned tires can save an additional 3%. Drive sensibly to save gasoline.
- Check Your Water Heater and Pipes:** Insulate your hot water storage tank and pipes. Lowering your hot water heater thermostat to 120 degrees is a quick and easy way to conserve energy and save money.
- Weatherize Your Home:** Caulk and weather-strip any drafts around doors, windows, lights and plumbing fixtures. Window blinds or heavy curtains will also help keep heating costs down. Use bean liners to stop door drafts.
- Check Your Home Insulation:** Check insulation levels in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawlspaces. A good insulation system can help keep your home warm during winter and cool during summer.
- Lower Your Furnace Thermostat:** Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to adjust the temperature according to your schedule.
- Check Your Furnace:** Get an annual furnace check-up and change or clean your furnace filters once a month or as needed.
- Turn Off Electronics:** Turn off home electronics when not in use. Plugging electronics such as TVs, DVD players, computers and printers into power strips makes it easy to turn them off when not in use.
- Use Energy Efficient Appliances:** Investing in efficient appliances will save energy and money in the long run. Contact the SWP about discounts available for Energy Star appliances.
- Consider a Home Energy Audit:** A professional home energy audit will help you determine the most effective way to reduce your energy costs while protecting the environment. Contact SWP or Northern Options to schedule your home energy audit today. See www.urbanoptions.org for more information.
- Purchase an Earth Keeper Home Energy Kit:** Jump-start your home energy project by purchasing a low cost energy saving kit offered by Michigan GREEN. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these kits will benefit the Earth Keepers. (see reverse side)
- Reduce Your Taxes:** You may be eligible for an income tax credit of up to \$500 for a variety of energy conservation practices. Visit www.energytaxincentives.org or contact the SWP for more information.
- Consider Alternative Energies:** Research local options for wind, power, solar and bio-fuels. Let your local energy company know that you are interested in clean energy options.

Conserve Water to Save Money and Protect the Great Lakes

- Quick and Easy Ways to Conserve Water:** Fix leaking faucets, make sure the toilet isn't running after you flush, take short showers instead of baths, turn off the water when brushing your teeth, and wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Cut Your Laundry Costs:** You can conserve water and reduce your energy costs by washing full loads and using cooler water and cold-water detergents. Switching the temperature setting from hot to warm will cut a load's energy use in half!
- Install Low-Flow Showerheads:** A family of four, each showering for five minutes a day, uses 700 gallons of water a week. You can cut that amount in half by installing a low-flow shower head!
- Use Native Plants for Landscaping:** Native plants are easy to care for and require less watering because they are well suited to the local climate. Small plants placed around the foundation of a house can minimize the loss of cool air escaping in the summer. Contact the SWP to find out more about the benefits of using native plants in your landscaping project.

Conserve Natural Resources and Support Your Local Economy

- Think GREEN:** Studies have shown that a healthy environment will improve the economy and the overall quality of life for local residents. Use canvas shopping bags, buy products with less packaging, recycle whenever possible and reuse what you can. Walk or ride a bike and carpool when possible.
- Support Green Businesses:** Hire locally and buy locally to help support your local economy. Encourage local establishments to "Go GREEN". Surveys of United States travelers have found that people prefer GREEN businesses and will pay 8.5% more for their services. Contact the SWP or see www.greatwaters.net.

For additional information on what you can do to conserve energy and help protect the natural resources of the Upper Peninsula please contact the Superior Watershed Partnership at (906) 228-6095 or www.superiorwatersheds.org.

FACT: The Upper Peninsula is not immune to the impacts of climate change. Scientists have already confirmed the following:

- Gradual increases in ambient air temperatures.
- Dramatic increases in Great Lakes water temperatures.
- Loss of rare sub-arctic plant species that had thrived since the glaciers retreated.
- Changes in animal distribution, habitat and migration patterns.



FACT: The average resident of the Upper Peninsula consumes more energy in one week than our ancestors used in an entire lifetime!



EARTH KEEPERS Energy Kits

Thinking Green is great. Acting Green is even better!!

Michigan GREEN (a non-profit organization of energy experts and educators based in Escanaba) is partnering with the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) and Earth Keepers to help people conserve energy, save money and promote environmental stewardship.

During April, Michigan GREEN is offering incentives that will help SWP and Earth Keepers continue their environmental mission.

Purchase an energy kit for your home, church, or business and start saving today. These energy kits will save you up to \$100* on your energy bills next year and for many years to come. In addition, these energy kits will help address the impacts of climate change and reduce our regional carbon footprint.

In support of the Earth Keepers Mission, Michigan GREEN will contribute \$10 or \$20 for each kit sold!

Also, Consider an Energy Audit for your Church or Business

Michigan GREEN also conducts energy audits to help identify energy-saving practices and products for your business or church!

Small Business..... \$600
Church..... \$300

Price includes a customized energy kit and a one-year membership in Michigan GREEN.

**CALL Michigan GREEN
TODAY TO SET UP
YOUR ENERGY AUDIT.
1-888-473-5444**

The Michigan GREEN Energy Kit comes in two sizes for this Earth Day Event

Kit #1: (8) 13-watt CFLs and (4) 23-watt CFLs
\$99⁰⁰ (1) Low-flow showerhead (1.5 gal/min)
(1) 3-in-1 Nightlight / Flashlight
(2) Faucet Flow Moderators
Wall Switch / Outlet Sealers
Rope Caulk
Energy Tips Booklet PLUS...

\$20 Contribution to Earth Keepers

Kit #2: (4) 13-watt CFLs and (4) 23-watt CFLs
\$59⁰⁰ (1) 3-in-1 Nightlight / Flashlight
Wall Switch / Outlet Sealers
Rope Caulk
Energy Tips Booklet PLUS...

\$10 Contribution to Earth Keepers



Learn more about Michigan GREEN at www.michigangreen.org

*Michigan GREEN distributed over 7,000 energy kits (Kit #1) throughout 61 Michigan counties in 2006. In 2007, our analysis of utility bills showed an average annual savings of \$103.



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INSTRUCTIONS: Check each box that applies and briefly explain the energy conservation actions taken in your household (i.e: installed 10 compact fluorescent lightbulbs, etc.)

Lower Your Lighting Costs:

Turn Off Electronics:

Cut Your Laundry Costs:

Check Your Water Heater and Pipes:

Use Energy Efficient Appliances:

Install Low-Flow Showerheads:

Weatherize Your Home:

Consider a Home Energy Audit:

Use Native Plants for Landscaping:

Check Your Home Insulation:

Purchase an Earth Keeper Home Energy Kit

Think GREEN:

Lower Your Furnace Thermostat:

Reduce Your Taxes:

Support Green Businesses:

Check Your Furnace:

Consider Alternative Energies:

Improve Your Gas Mileage:

Quick and Easy Ways to Conserve Water:



RETURN THIS CHECKLIST
to your Earth Keeper Congregation
or directly to the
Superior Watershed Partnership
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