



Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

— Green Living —

Eight Things You Can Do to Help the Environment Right Now

✓ Don't flush baby wipes

Baby wipes, even the ones advertised as "flushable," are among the most common objects that clog pipes and jam pumps at sewage treatment plants. Use washable cloth wipes instead.

✓ Send foam "peanuts" packing

Call the Packing Peanut Hotline at (800) 828-2214 for the drop-off site closest to you that recycles "peanuts." NYS has nearly three dozen locations.

✓ Turn Out the Lights!

Many species of insects, birds, sea turtles, bats, nocturnal rodents, snakes, fish, and even plants are harmed by nighttime lighting. Use lower wattage outdoor lights, motion-sensitive lights and fixtures with shields that direct light downward.

✓ Water wisely

Use a rain gauge. An inch of water each week is sufficient for plants and greenery, whether Mother Nature provides it or you do. Collect rain in a barrel (many barrels can be attached to a sprinkler) to use on gardens and lawns during dry spells. Place sprinklers so they water your grass, not the street.

✓ Keep cool, not cold

Bigger air conditioners aren't necessarily better. An over-sized AC is less efficient and effective than a unit properly sized for the area to be cooled. Sun, shade and how a space is used are also factors to consider. See the link in the right-hand column to Energy Star's guide.

✓ Enjoy a climate-friendly cookout

Charcoal grills produce about three times more carbon emissions than propane gas grills. If you need to replace



Buried in peanuts? Time to call the Packaging Peanut Hotline.

your grill, consider buying a propane grill.

✓ "Shopping" isn't always a dirty word

Reusing or recycling items is often the greener choice, but sometimes new products are actually better for you and the environment. Search the USEPA's Design for the Environment database (see link in right-hand column) for products that EPA scientists evaluated for safety and high quality.

✓ What can you do with empty cat litter jugs and tubs?

If you buy your cat litter in a cardboard box or paper bag, recycling the empty container is simple. If your favorite brand comes in a large plastic jug or tub, you can still recycle it, but it requires lots of space in the recycling bin.



Here's a fun way to reuse your cat litter pails.

—Litter Facts—

It takes more energy to make a new product like a can or bottle from virgin materials than it does to make a product by recycling. Recycling saves energy, natural resources, money, time, and land-fill space. It makes less pollution, such as greenhouse gases, and creates jobs too!

LITTER Fact:

It takes steel cans up to 100 years to decompose.

LITTER Fact:

It takes paper up to one year to decompose.

LITTER Fact:

It takes aluminum cans 200 years to 500 years to decompose.

LITTER Fact:

Glass can last for thousands of years. It does not decompose.

LITTER Fact:

Plastic bottles can take more than 1,000 years to decompose.

LITTER Fact:

140,000 plastic bags combined with wood saw dust can produce 500 square feet of composite lumber flooring.

For more recycling information, see us at the Town Open House on June 16th.

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Food waste collection at the Transfer Station begins June 30th.

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