

Sustainable Living Resolutions for 2008

The City of Tucson's Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development is committed to improving operations at the City in an effort to lessen the City's impact on the environment. We also want to help the public make positive changes to be more sustainable in how they live and work. Finding ways to conserve water and energy, reduce waste, and use safer substances all contribute to a more sustainable community and lead to a better quality of life now and for future generations.

For most of us, the New Year inspires an effort to make positive changes in our lives. This is the perfect time to make a resolution to live more sustainably. Making small changes in our daily actions may not only save money, but can have a positive effect on the environment and our community.

The Sustainable Living Resolutions below are small steps that have a big impact on resource conservation, will help curb harmful carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to Global Warming, and will create a greater sense of community.

If we all make a contribution toward sustainability, we'll make 2008 a great year for positive change!

Energy



- This year I will replace all of the standard light bulbs in my home with compact fluorescent light bulbs. I can eliminate 1800 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions over the life of the bulbs and save money on electricity because compact fluorescent light bulbs use 75% less energy than standard bulbs! To learn about Sun Lighting's Bulb Buyback Program visit <http://www.sunlighting.net/pdf/Bulbbuyback.pdf>.

Water



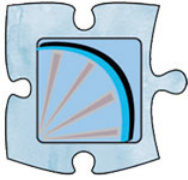
- This year I will turn off the faucet when brushing my teeth. I can save 4 gallons of water a day or 1460 gallons of water in 2008!
- This year I will take advantage of Tucson Water's free water audit program, the Zanjero Program, to learn more about how I am using water and other ways I can use less water. This program will help me save money on my water bill and conserve water resources. For more information, call 520-791-3242 or visit http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/zanjero_program.htm.

Waste



- This year I will replace plastic shopping bags with reusable shopping bags. I can eliminate 208 bags from our waste stream in 2008!
- This year I will strengthen my commitment to recycle. Visit <http://www.tucsonrecycles.org/> for more information about recycling in Tucson.

Transportation



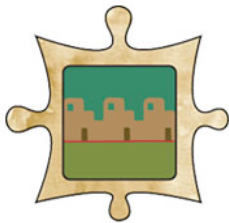
- This year I will ride the bus or a bicycle one day each month. I can save 16.5 gallons of gasoline and prevent 320.5 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions in 2008!
- Visit Tucson's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program website at <http://dot.ci.tucson.az.us/bicycle/> to learn more about getting around without a vehicle.

Nature and Food



- This year I will plant a new tree and care for it. I can help capture 3.6 pounds of carbon dioxide in 2008 from the atmosphere!
- Visit <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/tft/index.html> to learn about the Trees for Tucson program and how you can get a free tree!
- This year I will search for and visit one public park in Tucson that I have never been to. Visit Tucson's Parks and Recreation website at <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/parksandrec/> to locate parks.
- This year I will search for, and where available, buy food grown within 150 miles of Tucson (or ask my grocer to label foods that are grown within 150 miles of Tucson). I can help support our local economy and reduce the energy it takes to transport food.
- Visit <http://cals.arizona.edu/pima/gardening/farmproduce.html> for a listing of farmer's markets in the Tucson Area.

Green Homes and Healthy Community



- This year I will find a safe substitute for at least three household cleaning products that I am currently using. I can keep harmful chemicals out of my home and improve my indoor air quality.
- Visit <http://www.thegreenguide.com/products/Housekeeping> for alternative cleaning supplies.
- This year I will seek out and introduce myself to someone who lives on my block and whom I have never met. I can help build a sense of community in my neighborhood.
- This year I will volunteer at a local community-building event. I can help strengthen the assets in my community.
- This year I will find and support a local business that provides environmentally responsible products or services. I can help foster environmental responsibility and support our local economy.