

Historic College Park Celebrates



Here are 10 easy things you can do *right now* to make a difference on Earth Day!

1. Recycle

College Park has a recycling center that is both easy-to-use and conveniently located at the corner of College Street and John Calvin. There are bins for the following items:

- Plastic
- Cardboard
- Glass
- Magazines & Newspapers
- Steel Cans & Aluminum Cans
- Phone books



If you have other items you wish to recycle that College Park doesn't accept, go to Earth 911 at <http://earth911.com/> to search for other locations.

2. Use less gas and take MARTA

We are lucky in College Park to live so close to MARTA – most of us can get to the station either on foot or bicycle! For a map and more information, go to:

<http://www.itsmarta.com/getthere/schedules/index-rail.htm>



3. Use the College Park Public Library

Did you know that by re-using books you can save trees?

3647 Main Street, College Park, Georgia 30337, phone: 404-762-4060

http://www.afplweb.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=94

4. Plant Xeriscape

Xeriscape landscaping has many benefits:

- a. For most of North America, over 50% of residential water used is applied to landscape and lawns. Xeriscape can save water by reducing landscape water use by 50–75%.
- b. Aside from occasional pruning and weeding, maintenance is minimal. Watering requirements are low, and can be met with simple irrigation systems.

- c. Using plants native to your area will eliminate the need for chemical supplements like fertilizers and pesticides. Sufficient nutrients are provided by healthy organic soil.
- d. A good Xeriscape can raise property values which more than offset the cost of installation. Protect your landscaping investment by drought-proofing it.
- e. Fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers is minimized or eliminated with minimal turf areas. Small turf areas can be maintained with a reel mower.
- f. Use of native plants, shrubs and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife. For information go to: www.eartheasy.com/grow_xeriscape.htm



5. Start Composting

We have so many great trees and landscape features in College Park that shed leaves, use those as a starter for composting. To learn more about composting, go to: <http://www.howtocompost.org/>

6. Adjust Your Home Temperature

When it comes to household energy costs, 42% goes toward just two things - heating and cooling. This means you have a lot of room to make a difference and even small changes can make dramatic improvements in household fuel efficiency:

- a. Tune up your heating system. By keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted, you can save up to 5% in heating costs.
- b. Clean vents, close unused vents, and change filters in the vents. Again, just these simple things will save you up to 5% in costs.
- c. Buy a programmable thermostat, which can regulate different temperatures at different times of the day. And if you have one, use it! These thermostats reduce energy use by 5-30% and save you \$100-\$150 in energy costs each year.
- d. If one in 10 households serviced heating and cooling systems annually, cleaned or replaced filters regularly, used a programmable thermostat and replaced old equipment with ENERGY STAR models it would prevent the emissions of more than 17 billion pounds of greenhouse gases.
- e. Add 2° to the AC thermostat in summer, and 2° in winter. If everyone did this, the cumulative impact is significant.
- f. Make sure windows and doors are sealed. Again, this will dramatically improve your household fuel efficiency. Sealing air leaks and adding insulation can reduce your annual energy bill by 10%.



7. Change Your Light bulbs

There are now highly efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) that last for years, use a third of the energy of regular bulbs and actually produce more light. Look for the government's ENERGY STAR label, which means the bulb has been tested for quality and efficiency. While each ENERGY STAR qualified bulb can cost more initially - anywhere from \$4 to \$15 a piece - remember that there are two price tags: what you pay at the register and what you pay in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime. You may pay more up front, but you will actually save hundreds of dollars in your household budget over the long term because of their long life. Five ENERGY STAR light bulbs will save your household at least \$150 over their lifetime.



8. Eat Locally Grown, Organic Foods

...and you don't have to drive downtown to Whole Foods to do it! Simply visit Rashid's **Truly Living Well Garden** located at 3353 Washington Road in East Point. Rashid's farm produces delicious, organically grown produce for you and your family to share. For more information, go to: <http://www.trulylivingwell.com/>

9. Save Water

- a. Either turn the hot water heater down to 120°, or turn on the "energy conservation" setting. Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140°, when most households only require them at 120° to 115° degrees. For each 10° reduction in water temperature, you can save 3-5% in energy costs.
- b. Buy insulation at a local store and insulate your hot water heater and pipes.
- c. Install a timer on your water heater to turn off at night and on just before you wake up in the morning.
- d. When possible, wash a few dishes by hand. Over time, that will save a few loads in the dishwasher, conserving energy.
- e. Don't pre-rinse dishes. Today's detergents are powerful enough to do the job. Use the energy saving cycle too.
- f. Wait until you have a full load to run the dishwasher.
- g. Wash clothes in warm or cold water, not hot. When operating a washing machine 90% of the energy goes toward heating the water that washes and rinses the clothes. The clothes will be just as clean, and you'll cut energy use. Front load washers use even less water than traditional top load washing machines. Look for Energy Star washer too.
- h. Don't over-dry your clothes. It is better to do several loads in a row as the dryer doesn't have to heat up for the next load.



10. Pick up garbage

If you are out walking our beautiful neighborhood or enjoying Barrett Park or one of the other city parks – please take the time to pick up any garbage or cans you may see along the way. Small steps can make the biggest difference!



Thank you for participating in today's HCPNA Earth Day Clean-Up!

We appreciate your time and commitment to keeping our community beautiful!

Also be sure to visit Historic College Parks Neighborhood Association's web site at hcpna.org.

What is Earth Day!

Earth Day, celebrated April 22nd, is a day designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It is held annually during both spring in the northern hemisphere and autumn in the southern hemisphere. It was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in in 1970 and is celebrated in many countries every year.

