



The Union of Concerned Scientists predicts that over the next century, Illinois' climate will become warmer and drier as a result of climate change. We also may experience more extreme weather events, such as droughts, extreme heat, and floods. The Chicago Department of Environment has developed a citywide Climate Change Action Plan that will help us prepare for these expected changes and provide us with strategies for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Organize an Air and Energy workshop to help Chicagoans conserve energy, save money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Educate participants about global warming and other types of air pollution, and let them know how they can make a difference. As part of the workshop, distribute power strips, organize a light bulb swap (participants exchange an incandescent for a compact fluorescent light bulb), and/or make green cleaning solutions. Connect with participants again in a few weeks and ask them to report what changes they have made as a result of your workshop.

## **Timeline:**

- **Project Proposal due online:** 2 weeks after the Community Organizing class
- **Part I: Preparation:** ~1 month
- **Part II: Workshop:** 3 hrs (1 hr set up; 1½ hr workshop; ½ hr clean up)
- **Part III: Follow Up and Tracking Environmental Benefits (1-2 weeks after the workshop):** 1-2 hrs
- **Part IV: Final Report due online:** 2 weeks after your project is complete

## **Materials:**

- Spray bottles for green cleaning solutions
- Vinegar
- Dish detergent
- Green cleaning solution labels
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Kill-A-Watt energy meters
- Power strips
- **Guide to Recycling Household Hazardous Waste**
- Copies of **Clean Air Counts Healthy Cleaning for Your Home**
- Copies of the **'Do It in the Dark' Energy Audit**
- **\$800 Savings Challenge** cards

## **Part I: Preparation**

### **~1 month**

1. **Become an expert!** C3 Classes should provide you with a basic background in air and energy issues, but you may want to learn more before you present at your workshop. Read through this guide, including the attached **Guide to Recycling Household Hazardous Waste** and **Clean Air Counts Healthy Cleaning for Your Home** information sheet. Also, see below under **Additional Resources** for ideas about where to find more information.
2. **Define your project's vision and goals.** What do you hope to achieve by doing this project? How many community members do you hope will participate? What environmental benefits do you plan to achieve?
3. **Choose a community to serve.** Decide to whom you will present your workshop. Refer to your **Asset Map** for ideas.
4. **Gather a project team.** Refer to the **Building Your Project Team** worksheet in your **Project Development Workbook**.

### ***Ways to Involve Your Project Team***

- Ask your project team to help you brainstorm ideas and create an outline for your workshop. Team members can also help you create, edit, and/or practice your presentation.
- Make a list of locations where you want to place advertisements for your workshop. Ask your team members to sign up to distribute advertising materials to some of these locations.
- Workshops need people power to run smoothly. Sign up your team members as workshop volunteers.



- Two people could help with a registration table making nametags, distributing handouts, and taking registration information. Be sure to make a script for your volunteers to follow so they know exactly what information to collect from your workshop attendees and why that information is collected.
- A team member could introduce you at the workshop, help set up any AV equipment, pass out materials during your presentation, etc.
- After the workshop, your project team could help with follow up calls, contacting participants (to make sure you have all the information you want to collect).
- Let them know the results. Your team will definitely be interested in the success and progress of your project. Keep them informed and involved along the way.

5. **Create a basic outline for your workshop.** With the help of your project team, decide what you will do at your workshop. Here are some examples of previous C3 trainee workshops on air and energy. Feel free to use their ideas, but be creative and add your own components!

- Indoor air quality: One trainee created a PowerPoint presentation about the importance of clean indoor air. She gave her presentation to members of her local yoga club. After the presentation, she and her participants made green cleaning solutions. (See the attached handouts **Guide for Recycling Household Hazardous Waste** and **Clean Air Counts Healthy Cleaning for Your Home** for more information on these topics.)
- Climate change: Several trainees have educated their communities about global warming with a showing of *An Inconvenient Truth*. Trainees have organized showings at churches, community centers, and in their own homes.
- Energy efficiency: Trainees have organized 'Cut Your Electricity Bill in Half' seminars where they provided guidelines, checklists, and materials to help participants conserve energy in their homes.

**Action components:** Every workshop should inspire participants to action. Here are some ways to get people involved in improving air quality and conserving energy:

- Exchange incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Ask participants to see how much energy their households use by carrying out the '**Do It in the Dark' Energy Audit** (attached).
- Ask participants to take the **\$800 Savings Challenge** to reduce their energy consumption by driving less, replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, changing home air conditioner filters, unplugging appliances, and so on.
- Lead a discussion about additional actions that individuals can take.

6. **Find a location and set up a date and time for your event.** The venue you choose will depend on the community to whom you present your workshop. Make sure to contact the appropriate person at the venue to check availability and reserve a date and time. Confirm logistics (e.g., who will open the building/gate). Possible locations include:

- Neighborhood community center (e.g. gym, art center, library, school, church)
- Alderman's office
- Your office
- Condo association meeting



7. **Order materials through your liaison.** Refer to your Material Checklist in your Project Proposal.
  - Confirm with your C3 liaison final quantities of each material requested and the address where materials should be shipped. Note: Some materials will need to be picked up at the Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento Blvd.
  - Remember, materials can take up to 3 weeks to arrive after C3 orders them so **plan ahead!**
8. **Advertise.** Make sure to use the newsletters, listhosts, bulletin boards, etc. that serve your community and/or your venue. You might also advertise using:
  - Community newspapers and newsletters
  - Aldermen's newsletters
  - Signs at your location (e.g., community center, office, etc.)
  - Signs/booth at neighborhood events

Make sure to put your contact information on all advertisements. Consider asking people to RSVP so you know in advance how many people to expect.
9. **Prepare for your workshop.** Gather supplies, create handouts and plan your presentation.

## **Part II: Workshop**

### **3 hours: 1 hour set up, 1½ hour workshop, ½ hour clean up**

Put all your planning and preparation to work! Make sure to:

- Get there at least 15 minutes early to set up.
- Ask everyone to take the **\$800 Savings Challenge**. Let participants know that you will use their contact information to contact them in ~1-2 weeks to track what changes they've made in their lives.
- Provide nametags and make sure people introduce themselves.
- Ask for questions and feedback at the end of the workshop.
- Take pictures!

## **Part III: Follow-Up and Tracking Environmental Benefits (1-2 weeks after the workshop):**

### **~1-2 hours**

1. **Follow-up with participants.** A few weeks after your workshop, contact your participants to track environmental benefits. We suggest that you either call or send each participant a short survey. For example, you could ask:
  - Whether/how much people are using the CFLs and/or green cleaning solutions you gave them.
  - What participants found out from the **'Do It in the Dark' Energy Audit**.
  - If appropriate, whether participants have noticed any changes in their monthly energy bills compared to last year (e.g. if you distributed CFLs).
  - What other changes participants have made in their lives as a result of your workshop.
2. **Calculate environmental and community benefits.** Based on your workshop and participants' survey responses, estimate the benefits of your project. Be sure to include:
  - How many people participated in your workshop.
  - How many CFLs you handed out; how many incandescent light bulbs you collected
  - A description of how much energy use or air pollution your project prevented. (e.g., 3 households switched to green cleaning supplies; 20 households replaced an incandescent light bulb with a CFL).
  - Any publicity you received (e.g. 1 community-paper write-up about your project)
3. **Compare your results to your project's vision and goals (see Part I, step 2 above).** Did you achieve the results that you hoped for?



## **Part IV: Turn in Final Report**

### **Within 2 weeks of project completion**

As soon as you've calculated the environmental benefits, please fill out your **Final Report** online. Corresponding materials such as digital photographs, outreach flyers or posters, press releases, or news clippings should be emailed to [conservation@cityofchicago.org](mailto:conservation@cityofchicago.org). Please also enter the information from your **\$800 Savings Challenge** cards on [www.chicagoclimateaction.org](http://www.chicagoclimateaction.org).

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Climate change:**

- Pew Center on Global Climate Change: <http://www.pewclimate.org/>. An informative, reliable source for climate change information.
- *An Inconvenient Truth* website: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>. Reduces global warming down to the facts you need to know.
- "How to Talk to a Climate Skeptic:" <http://gristmill.grist.org/skeptics>. A comprehensive series of articles from Grist, the environmental news and commentary website.

#### **Indoor Air Quality**

- EPA's website on Indoor Air Quality: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/>. Tons of facts about indoor air pollution.
- American Lung Association's website on Indoor Air Quality: <http://www.lungusa.org/site/apps/lk/links.asp?c=dvLUK900E&b=36056>. Everything you need to know about preventing indoor air pollution.
- Clean Air Counts: <http://www.cleanaircounts.org/>. A local initiative; you can become a member and track how much pollution you prevent by making small changes in your life. CAC also has tips about preventing indoor air pollution and saving energy.

#### **Other Energy and Air Pollution**

- The Chicago Department of Environment's website (<http://cityofchicago.org/environment>) includes information on the city's compact fluorescent light bulbs distribution program, the Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center, and other city programs.
- 18 seconds: <http://www.18seconds.org>. Tracks the number of compact fluorescent light bulbs purchased in each state since the beginning of 2007.
- EPA's website on Air Quality: <http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/air.html>. A good place to start research on air pollutants, sources of air pollution, and other relevant information.
- US Department of Energy's Tips on Saving Energy & Money at home: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/index.html>
- Energy Star website: <http://www.energystar.gov/>. Learn about energy-efficient technology.

# Guide to Recycling Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Chicago Department of Environment

## List of Common HHW Products and Safety Tips

### Cleaning Products

- Oven cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- Toilet cleaners
- Tub, tile, shower cleaners
- Bleach (laundry)

### Lawn and Garden Products

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives

### Indoor Pesticides

- Ant sprays and baits
- Cockroach sprays and baits
- Flea repellents and shampoos
- Bug sprays
- Houseplant insecticides
- Moth repellents
- Mouse and rat poisons and baits

### Automotive Products

- Motor oil
- Fuel additives
- Carburetor and fuel injection cleaners
- Air conditioning refrigerants
- Starter fluids
- Automotive batteries
- Transmission and brake fluid
- Antifreeze

### Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats or thermometers
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Driveway sealer

### Workshop/Painting Supplies

- Adhesives and glues
- Furniture strippers
- Oil or enamel based paint
- Stains and finishes
- Paint thinners and turpentine
- Paint strippers and removers
- Photographic chemicals
- Fixatives and other solvents

**Tip #1** Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in food containers. Do not mix products from the different groups shown above. Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers and never remove the labels. Corroding containers, however, should be repackaged and clearly labeled. This will prevent accidental ingestion and also can help protect sanitation workers.

**Tip #2** When leftovers remain, never mix household hazardous waste with other products. Incompatibilities may react, ignite, or explode; contaminated household hazardous waste may become unrecyclable.

### Personal Protective Clothing and Other Items for Safely Handling HHW

- Safety glasses
- Gloves – rubber, leather – wear rubber gloves under leather gloves. Many of the containers are sharp and therefore the leather gloves will provide protection. The rubber gloves will prevent chemicals from contacting skin.
- Long-sleeve shirt and long pants
- Soap & water – for cleaning after collecting, or for washing off chemicals
- Fire extinguisher

## Where to Recycle Household Hazardous Waste

### City of Chicago Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center

The Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center is the city's first permanent hazardous waste recycling facility. In addition to responsibly disposing of hazardous products from landfills, the center will train ex-offenders in electronics recycling. Many of the electronics will be taken apart and recycled, while newer computers will be refurbished through the program and made available to local schools, churches, non-profit groups and low-income families.

The facility accepts the following materials for recycling or safe disposal: antifreeze, used motor oil, old gasoline, oil-based paints, paint thinners, aerosol paints, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, lawn chemicals, solvents, drain cleaners, cleaning products, pool chemicals, hobby chemicals, mercury, fluorescent lamps and bulbs, computers and cell phones. People can also use the Paint Exchange Room to swap old paints with one another for free.

These materials are accepted during the facility's hours of operation: Tuesdays from 7 a.m. to noon; Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop off household chemicals and electronics at: **Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center**, 1150 N. North Branch St. on Goose Island

## Recycle Batteries

Participate in the City's household battery recycling program at all Chicago Public Libraries and Walgreens stores. By recycling your batteries you will help keep these materials out of the waste stream and the battery components will be reclaimed for reuse. All common dry cell batteries can be recycled, including alkaline, rechargeable, and other common types. Wet cell batteries, like car batteries, cannot be recycled through this program. Funding for the City of Chicago's battery recycling program has been provided in part through a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Drop off batteries at **Chicago Public Libraries** and **Walgreens Stores**

This recycling program includes most disposal and rechargeable batteries used in the home, including:

- Alkaline Batteries, these are the typical disposable batteries, Duracell, Energizer, Ever Ready
- Lithium Batteries, these are typically found in cameras
- All Button Type Batteries, often found in watches and smaller electronic devices

## Recycle Corks

Yemm & Hart Ltd. recycles cork stoppers. The company reprocesses the corks into a block that is sliced into thin sheets that will be offered for sale, made into tack boards, award plaques, coasters, and more. If the company gets enough corks, they may begin to produce recycled cork floor tiles. Plastic stoppers cannot be recycled through this program. Collect and mail your cork stoppers *prepaid* (paid by sender) to Yemm & Hart via UPS or USPS: **Wine Cork Recycling, Yemm & Hart Ltd**, 425 North Chamber Drive, Fredericktown, MO, 63645.

Visit <http://www.yemmhart.com/news+/winecorkrecycling.htm> for more information.

## Recycle Cell Phones

There are more than 150 million cellular users in the United States alone. It is estimated that by 2005 there will be over 700 million retired phones in the U.S. Seventy-five percent of these out-of-use phones will be in people's drawers at home or at work. The balance is going to landfills or is recycled. The EPA estimates that this quantity of cell phones is equal to about 250,000 tons of toxic materials.

ECO-CELL is an organization that takes used cell phones, accessories and cell phone batteries and recycles them using the best demonstrated technologies for recycling e-waste. Approximately 80% of the phones collected will be refurbished and reused by first-time users abroad or by selected local organizations, such as Hospital patients for emergency 911 calls. All unusable cell phones and accessories will be recycled under strict EPA guidelines by certified recyclers.

ECO-CELL pays non-profits to collect cell phones as a fundraiser. We recommend recycling your phones through Protecting Animals, USA – a nonprofit, 501(c)3 animal-advocacy organization based in Chicago, IL that advocates for the welfare of non-human animals through outreach, education, and active campaigning. This organization will receive dollars from ECO-CELL for the phones to aid in their fundraising as an added benefit. To learn more about ECO-CELL, visit <http://www.eco-cell.org/>. Collect used cell phones, and mail to or drop off at: **Protecting Animals, USA**, 6143 N Lakewood #3, Chicago, IL 60660. You can also drop off cell phones at the city's new **Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Center** at 1150 N. North Branch Street on Goose Island.

## Recycle CD-ROMS

Plastics Recycling Inc, located in Indianapolis, grinds the CDs down and reuses the plastic for automotive parts and the spindles for adding machine rolls. The firm is capable of handling large quantities, so please share the information with colleagues, friends and family. CDs must be sent without sleeves or cases. Send CDs to: **Plastics Recycling Inc. (Allen Shaw)**, 2015 S. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, IN 46625, 317-780-6100

## Recycle Floppy Disks & Videocassettes

Alternative Community Training (ACT) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide personalized support to individuals with disabilities as they become full and valued members of the community. The company employs over fifty five disabled employees who erase and then package floppy disks and videocassettes every day. By donating these items, you not only dispose of unwanted materials, but also support the training and development of these individuals. For more information see <http://www.actrecycling.org/donations/> Mail floppy disks and videocassettes to: **Alternative Community Training**, 2200 Burlington, Columbia, Missouri 65202

## Recycle Tyvek® Envelopes

Turn any Tyvek® envelope inside out, so the unprinted white surface shows on the outside. Stuff the inside-out Tyvek® envelope with other used Tyvek® envelopes for recycling. For small quantities (less than 25 envelopes/month), address and mail the envelope to: **Tyvek Recycle. Attn: Shirley B. Wright, Tyvek® Recycling Specialist**, 2400 Ellingham Avenue #A, Richmond, VA 23237. See [http://www2.dupont.com/Tyvek\\_Envelopes/en\\_US/tech\\_info/tech\\_environ.html](http://www2.dupont.com/Tyvek_Envelopes/en_US/tech_info/tech_environ.html) to find out how to recycle larger quantities.



This information is brought to you by Clean Air Counts. We are a Chicago regional initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. EPA, the City of Chicago, and the Illinois EPA. We seek to improve air quality in the Chicago area by helping households and businesses to reduce their emissions of smog-forming pollutants. By using the non-toxic cleaning products described in this article, you can help reduce smog! For more information on Clean Air Counts, please see [www.cleanaircounts.org](http://www.cleanaircounts.org).

## Healthy Cleaning for your Home

Many common cleaning products contain hazardous chemicals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which pollute the air. Using air-friendly cleaning products helps protect the health of your family by reducing or eliminating their exposure to the chemicals released by most cleaning products. Air-friendly cleaning products tend to be multi-purpose, so a single air-friendly cleaning product can replace several specialized traditional products.

I. The best solution is to make your own cleaning products from natural materials. Not only is this a healthier, safer solution but it can save you money.

### **Basic All-Purpose Cleaner Formula**

½ teaspoon baking soda (for example; Arm & Hammer)  
or 2 teaspoons borax (for example; 20 Mule Team Borax)  
½ teaspoon liquid soap or detergent  
2 cups hot water  
spray bottle

Combine everything in a spray bottle. Shake to blend. You can make a soft scrub paste by substituting water for more soap.

### **Window Cleaner**

½ teaspoon liquid soap or detergent  
¼ cup vinegar  
2 cups of water

Combine everything in a spray bottle. Shake to Blend.

### **Toilet Bowl Cleaners**

Spray straight white distilled vinegar on the toilet bowl rim.

OR

Pour 1 cup of borax into the toilet bowl at night before you go to sleep. The next morning clean out the toilet bowl with a brush.

### **Furniture Polish**

Any vegetable oil, lemon oil, etc. (2 parts oil, 1 part lemon juice works great!)

### **Room Freshener**

Baking Soda - Set around in small bowls to absorb odors; also cleans sinks, great for laundry, etc.

### **Reducing the Smell of Vinegar** By Chicago Conservation Corps

Non-toxic cleaning products are healthy and environmentally friendly, but tend to smell strongly of vinegar. Here are some ideas for reducing the smell. Trial and error will help you determine which options are right for you.

- Use apple cider vinegar instead of white vinegar (the two types work equally well, but apple cider vinegar has a milder scent).
- Add lemon juice or tea tree oil, which smells like mint.
- Recipes that include baking soda tend to smell less

## **Get Rid of Pests/Weeds**

### Flea Killer (Borax)

Sprinkle borax on dog beds, carpets, and other areas where you suspect that fleas are hatching. (Note that very high doses would need to be ingested to harm a pet or human).

### Mold Inhibitor (Borax and water)

Make a thick borax and water paste. Smear it on the moldy area. Let set until dry (Overnight or longer). Sweep up the powder, and rinse off the rest.

### Mice Deterrent (Borax)

Sprinkle borax on the floor along the walls (mice like to run along the side of walls).

### Poison Ivy Killer (Vinegar)

Spray straight white distilled vinegar on poison ivy.

**II.** If you don't want to make your own cleaning products, you can try these brands that have little or no VOCs:

- Soft Scrub (not with bleach)
- Seventh Generation
- Murphy's Oil Soap
- Earth Friendly Products (makers of Orange Plus, Window Kleener, etc.)
- Plunger or drain snake
- Method (at Target stores)
- Bon Ami
- Bio Kleen

**III.** When shopping for cleaners, read the labels and try to avoid:

**VOC-Based Solvents** - Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, Trichloroethane, Petroleum Distillates & Surfactants, such as Nonylphenol Ethoxylate, Phenolic Compounds, Glycol Ethers (Ethylene Glycol & Butoxy Ethanol), and Isopropyl Alcohol, though not as toxic.

**CHLORINE BLEACH OR SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE-** Preferable substitute: Sodium Percarbonate

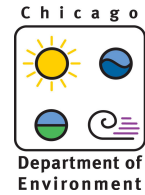
**PHOSPHATES-** No more than 0.5%

**EDTA & NTA-** Acids used to soften water & increase cleaning power



# 'Do It in the Dark' Energy Audit

Provided by the Chicago Conservation Corps



Two options are listed below to help you assess your energy use in your home.

Visit [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator2.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator2.html) and follow the instructions on the page.

List your **Total Estimated Emissions** here: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of CO2 per year before taking any action.

List your **Total Estimated Emissions** here: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of CO2 per year after taking action.

List the actions you can take and their associated potential dollar savings:

---

---

---

Work from the Chicago Department of Environment's Residential Energy Assessment Program (REAP) website (<https://webapps.cityofchicago.org/ERC/tips.htm>) to create a detailed list of energy efficiency improvements you can make in your home or apartment. Try to make two recommendations in each of the following categories based on REAP's Energy Saving Tips:

	Status	Recommendations
Home appliances		
Hot water heating		
Doors		
Heating Systems		
Insulation		
Lighting		
Weatherization		
Cooling systems		
Fans and natural ventilation		