

MAKE YOUR LANDSCAPE Green

You can make simple changes and choices in your home to help protect and conserve water, save energy, and reduce your impact on the environment. Use the checklists below throughout your home and make it *green* today!



SOIL

- Use compost to enrich the soil's quality.
- Use food scraps to start your own compost pile.
- Use mulch in flower beds and vegetable gardens to retain moisture, control weeds, and stabilize soil temperature.
- Use organic or slow-release fertilizers to create strong root systems and reduce nutrient leaching and runoff.



PLANTS AND TREES

- Choose native plants that require less water and nutrient inputs.
- Choose plants appropriate for the location - i.e. sun, shade, soil type.
- Avoid introducing invasive species or noxious weeds.
- Control weeds the old fashioned way by pulling them, or use mulch and landscape fabric.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs too close to buildings, property lines, or over a septic system drainfield.



WATERING

- Water lawns separately from other plantings.
- Ensure sprinklers don't water pavement.
- Use an outdoor water timer and/or soil moisture sensor to ensure proper water application.
- Water lawns and plants in the morning, and avoid watering during the hottest, windiest parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Water deeply, but infrequently.
- Install a rain garden to encourage infiltration of stormwater runoff.
- Install a rain barrel to capture rainwater for watering plants.



LAWN

- Cut no more than roughly 1/3 the height of the grass when mowing.
- Recycle your grass clippings into mulch on your lawn, flower beds, and vegetable gardens.
- Choose grass varieties that are resistant to dry conditions.
- Choose organic or slow-release fertilizers to reduce nutrient runoff and leaching.
- Keep fertilizers on the soil and off of the sidewalk or driveway (sweep it up if it does get on the pavement).

Learn more at
www.groundwater.org.
Funding provided by the
Nebraska Environmental Trust.



Tell us what green practices you're doing in your landscape - use the QR code or go to
www.groundwater.org/whatiamdoing.html.

