

BE A STEWARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT



PLANT NATIVE SPECIES IN YOUR GARDEN.

Native plants save water and provide food and habitat for wildlife. Find out what plants are native to our area.

www.albemarle.org/nativeplants/

www.plantvirginiannatives.org/plant-piedmont-natives

REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES.

Invasive plants can out-compete native species and reduce biodiversity. Learn to identify invasive exotics and how to remove them.

www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2014.pdf

blueridgeprism.org/factsheets/

REDUCE THE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR LANDSCAPING.

Adopt techniques for controlling pests and invasive species that reduce the need for toxic chemicals. Avoid products that harm beneficial species, such as pollinators.

www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/450/450-725/450-725.pdf

ADD NATIVE TREES TO YOUR LANDSCAPE.

Trees add beauty and shade to your yard while reducing heating and cooling costs and removing carbon dioxide from the air.

www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/Native-Tree-ID-spreads_2016_pub.pdf

PREVENT SOIL LOSS DUE TO EROSION.

Wind and water can sweep soil away, particularly on slopes. Cover bare soil with ground covers, shrubs, grasses and trees.

www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-722/426-722.pdf

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD AND SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS BY GOING TO FARMERS MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS THAT SERVE LOCALLY SOURCED FOODS.

Choose organic and local foods that are in season. Compost food waste to provide nutrients for the garden.

www.buylocalpiedmont.org/

CONSERVE WATER.

Use a rain barrel or cistern to water your plants. Select plants and landscape design strategies that minimize water use.

www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/office-of-drinking-water/water-conservation-tips/



MORE TIPS ON BACK >



For live links to resources visit
piedmontmastergardeners.org

REDUCE YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE.

Find out how much energy your home consumes and how to make it more efficient. Most assessments help homeowners save from 5 to 30 percent on their energy bills. Also, consider the benefits of installing solar panels.

leap-va.org/

www.cvilleclimate.org/home-energy-moneysaving-tips

USE ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND APPLIANCES.

These save money and reduce heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions.

www.pecva.org/our-mission/energy-solutions/energy-efficiency-a-conservation

REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION.

Light pollution wastes energy and interferes with wildlife migratory and breeding patterns. Turn off outdoor lights at night or use motion sensors on essential outdoor lamps.

www.jmu.edu/planetarium/light-pollution.shtml

DRIVE SMART.

Avoid unnecessary braking and acceleration. Some studies have found that aggressive driving can result in using 40 percent more fuel than consistent, calm driving.

learn.eartheasy.com/guides/fuel-efficient-driving/

DRIVE LESS.

Driving less will reduce your transportation costs while helping to alleviate traffic and decrease pollution. When buying a vehicle, choose the smallest and/or most fuel efficient model to meet your family's needs.

www.epa.gov/transportation-air-pollution-and-climate-change/what-you-can-do-reduce-pollution-vehicles-and-engines#choose_fuel

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.

A small change in your daily lifestyle can decrease the amount of waste going to the landfill and reduce your carbon footprint. Also, buy products made of recycled materials.

www.rivanna.org/recyclables-accepted/
www.betterworldbetty.org/

BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST.

Citizen science can help document the impacts of climate change on plants and animals. Many organizations need volunteers to gather local data.

www.vaworkinglandscapes.org/get-involved/participate-in-vwl-wildlife-surveys/citizen-scientist

GET INVOLVED.

Engage with your family, friends and people in your community and encourage them to follow your lead and become a Steward of the Environment. Stay informed.



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