

Small Ways to Make Your Home More Green

Use less water

When we think about being eco-friendly, we usually think about saving electricity. However, saving water is an important step in being green. Leaky faucets or garden hoses can be easily fixed to prevent water loss. It's also a good idea to install a low-flow shower-head - these can save over 13,000 gallons of water per year for a family of four.



Install programmable thermostats

A programmable thermostat regulates your home's temperature according to settings you create for certain times of the day, such as turning the AC/heat off when no one is home and turning the temperature down whenever people are sleeping. You'll consume less electricity and save on heating and cooling costs.



Replace your lightbulbs

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) help save energy and have a much longer life span than traditional halogen bulbs. Light a path to decreasing your electricity bills over time by replacing your bulbs with LEDs.



Reduce use of household chemicals

Our homes are full of chemicals. From floor sealers to old paint to the cleaning products under your sink, it can slowly make indoor air quality poor. Instead, use vinegar or start looking for products with natural ingredients or contain low-VOCs. VOCs, or volatile organic compounds, can cause headaches, nausea, irritation, among other ailments.



Choose composting

Cut your carbon footprint by composting food scraps, except meat, to fertilize your garden. Composting your food waste improves your soil, reduces your impact on the environment, and saves money.



For more information:

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Brochures are updated periodically. Contact the Community Development Department to determine if you have the most recent edition.

Home Improvements

Eco-Friendly DIY Projects



What you need to know.



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Lowering our overall impact on the environment is a team effort, and like a ripple effect, a little from each of us can go a long way when it comes to helping out. The place where we can start making change is the one we know best—our homes. The City of Arnold supports and encourages every resident's decision to improve their home with "green" or eco-friendly projects, which also save money over time in lower energy and water bills.

Popular projects

This brochure contains a few select ideas that can help you get started on your next eco-friendly home improvement project.

Please note: It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the work being carried out is in compliance with the requirements of indentures, Homeowners Associations, etc.

If you plan to dig, reduce the risk of personal injury and property damage by contacting the Missouri One Call System to request to have the location of your utilities marked.

1-800-DIG-RITE

mo1call.com

Create a Rain Garden

For most people, runoff is a problem. With a rain garden, it becomes an amenity. Instead of diverting your gutter water into a storm drain, where it picks up motor oil and other urban crud, you can channel it into a low spot on your property planted with native bushes, grasses, or trees that like getting their feet wet. Your reward is something beautiful to look at, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping to provide the natural flood-control and water conservation that used to be the job of forests and wetlands.

Visit stlmsd.com/what-we-do/what-can-i-do/rain-gardens for more information on local rain gardens.



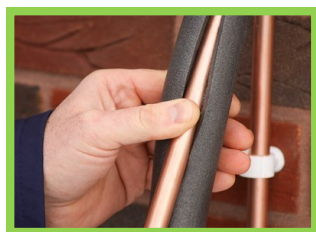
Use Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a great "low-tech" way to tap into a free supply of water that would otherwise drain into the sewer system. You simply install a large food-quality drum below the downspout of a gutter to catch the stormwater runoff from your roof. A standard 55-gallon rain barrel can fill in a matter of minutes during a strong rainstorm. Most come with a spigot for filling watering cans and a connection for a soaker hose, making it easy for you to use the water you collect to irrigate your lawn, water your plants, or wash your car.

Visit epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-barrels for more information.

Build a Clothesline

Next to your refrigerator, your dryer is likely the biggest energy-guzzling appliance in your house. Consider replacing your clothes dryer with an indoor or outdoor clothesline to save you energy and heating/cooling costs. Line-drying is also easier on your clothes and can help them last longer.



Insulate Hot-Water Pipes

Without insulation, your house's hot-water pipes act as a gigantic radiator, transferring heat to the air so efficiently that any water in the pipes—even if it left the boiler at a toasty 105 degrees—is barely lukewarm 15 minutes later. So if you wash your hands to prep dinner then need to rinse a pot after you've finished eating, you'll have to wait for hot water all over again. The solution: Insulate pipes wherever you can reach them by encasing them in rubber or polyethylene foam tubes.

Fix or Replace Windows

Drafty air leaks and water condensing on the inside glass are indicators that your windows aren't properly protecting your home from the outside world and is wasting your money. Older, single-pane windows are especially prone to leaking and do little to block incoming light, heat, and cold. Replacing your windows with new energy-efficient ones can drop your heating/cooling costs and raise the value of your home. Alternatively, you can also try some simple modifications to your existing windows like weatherstripping or adding storm windows.

