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06/10: Going Green: Don't get red, be "green"

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Summer has arrived and everyone is staying outdoors longer. Conservation does not have to take a backseat to helping reduce your carbon footprint. Here are three ways to stay "green," over the hot, summer months.

1. Shop at the local farmers market.

The farmers markets flourish in the summertime. The farmers sell their crop to the local consumers at a cheaper price then most supermarkets. Whereas most supermarkets charge for shipping and packaging in the retail cost, this is not the case at the farmers market. They are simply there to socialize with the community and make a living. Farmers market often provides a better product to the consumer because the produce is fresh and has not sat in a freezer for hours or days at a time.

2. Try to reduce paper waste.

There are simple solutions to reducing your paper consumption in your home. First, you can double side everything you print. Or, if your bank provides the option you can stop paper bank statements from coming to your home and get them online. You can also start paying your bills online in order to reduce the amount of paper sent to you. Reducing your paper use by not using paper dishes, use regular dishes instead. Don't forget to dry those dishes with a cloth towel instead of paper towels.

3. Unplug every electronic device you don't use.

This is something small that can really reduce your electric bill. All it takes is the simple act of unplugging chargers when they are not in use. When they are left plugged into the outlet, they are still using energy. Unplugging electronics while you aren't using them can save you money on your electric bill and reduce the energy waste in your home.

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