



# Make Pittsburgh Even Cooler in November:

Take simple steps to green your home inside and out

Take simple steps to green your home inside and out – wash your clothes in cold water, install a low-flow showerhead, and plant one or more drought-resistant native trees.

- **Wash your clothes in cold water**

About 90 percent of the energy used washing your clothes comes from heating the water. This means that the simplest way to cut your energy use is to reduce your hot water use. Doing this will not only save you up to \$60 a year, but will also prevent 864 pounds of heat-trapping gases from going into the air each year.

And have no fear – in most cases, cold water can keep your clothes just as bright and clean as washing in hot water. You can also try upgrading to a more energy efficient, front-loading washer. This not only saves you more water and energy, but also puts less wear on your clothes, cleans your clothes better, and saves you money on detergents.

- **Install a low-flow shower head**

One of the easiest ways to lower your water heating bills is to reduce the amount of hot water that you use in the shower. You can also save anywhere from 25 to 60 percent on your water bills. A good low-flow shower head will only cost you \$10 to \$20 – a cost that you'll quickly make up in savings. What you save in water and heating can also help prevent up to 1,796 pounds of global warming pollution each year.

- **Plant one or more drought-resistant native trees**

Trees have many great benefits. They can improve your property value, increase the beauty of your home, and keep your home cool in the summer yet let more light and warmth inside in the winter. Trees also reduce flooding, promote friendlier neighborhoods, and clean our air and water.

By letting a tree seedling grow for 10 years you will have reduced about 86 pounds of global warming pollution. And the benefits don't stop there – healthy trees increase in value as they grow older, multiplying the benefits for both you and your community for years to come. To read more on the benefits of trees visit <http://www.treevitalize.net/treeCare/Benefits.aspx>.

*Fall is the perfect time to plant a tree!* Learn how to plant and care for trees here:

- Take a Tree Tender course from Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest: <http://www.pittsburghforest.org/TreeTenderCourse>.
- From Tree Vitalize: <http://www.treevitalize.net/TreeCare.aspx>.

- **Track Your Progress**

Go to our website ([www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com](http://www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com)) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.