

## Tips for Summer Energy Savings

Summer provides opportunities to think or rethink your “going green” efforts. The daily choices that we make can directly affect air quality and our health. Here are six tips from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

1. Fill and use gas-powered lawn equipment in the evening hours and use a spill-proof, low-emitting gas can. Note: Spill resistant nozzles shut off automatically when the tank is full. Replace gas-powered landscaping and gardening tools; electric lawn mowers and leaf blowers are increasingly available and affordable.
2. Plant slow-growing grass so you can mow less often and use organic or nontoxic pesticides whenever possible.
3. Clean out your trunk. Any extra weight makes car engines work harder, burn more gas and release more emissions. Your gas mileage drops by four percent for every 100 pounds of excess waste that you haul around.
4. Exercise! Whenever possible, ride your bike or walk instead of driving. More than twenty-five percent of all air pollution nationwide comes from vehicles.
5. Combine several errands in one trip. A little planning will ultimately save you time and distance. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip with multiple stops because your car’s engine is still warm when you leave one place and drive to the next.