

## Grimwood Household TP3 Plan

**Environmental Policy Statement:** Often the focus of environmental conservation efforts is on industry and large groups of people. However, conservation starts at home and if one is environmentally conservative in their daily life, it can carry over into their business, organization, school, and industry. There are more households out there than there are businesses, industries, schools, and organizations combined. If each household practices even simple environmental practices, they can make a big difference. Some of the potential barriers are difficulty in getting information, help, or the means to easily practice some environmentally friendly practices as well as encouragement and recognition of the individual. These are some of the barriers I hope our household can overcome and serve as an example to other households as well as encourage efforts to lower the barriers so that more and more households can be environmentally friendly and do their part to make the world better for themselves and everyone else. The various practices and projects planned for a household require the assistance of all in the household and help raise the level of being environmentally conscious for all in that household. Also, as the projects continue, it is planned that they will become habit and a way of life rather than something different and so the projects that are designed to be environmentally friendly, also become sustainable and lead one to look to the next project as a way to continually improve and lessen the environmental impact of our household.

**Member Name:** Grimwood Household

**Address:** ##Address##

**County:** Davidson

**TP3ID #:** HHPL603

**Contact:** Donovan Grimwood, ##Phone number##, Donovan.Grimwood@state.tn.us

**Date:** 3/17/06

### Clean Air

#### New Project(s)

Clean air is a concern to everyone as it affects everyone. However, in a household setting there are often overlooked methods for making an impact. Many of these interconnect with other areas, but there are some that can be done either by choice or because they are required in many areas.

1. Become part of the Green Power Switch. The Green Power Switch is a program where customers can buy blocks of 150 kWh (about 12% of the typical household's monthly usage) of electricity from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and methane. Each block of Green Power bought (at \$4 a block) equals the environmental benefit of planting ½ an acre of trees or not driving for nearly four months.
2. Maintain vehicles to meet emission standards and maintain good fuel economy. This can include such actions as maintaining tire pressure, regular rotation of tires, regularly scheduled tune-ups, etc. It is estimated that 2% more fuel is used for every psi of under-inflation. Correct inflation and rotation extend tire life as well.
3. Combine errands to reduce driving miles to limit emissions and save fuel.

### Energy Efficiency/Conservation

#### New Project(s)

1. Install programmable thermostat.
2. Set thermostat at 65 in winter and 75 in summer. During periods of rapid weather change, actual savings might be hard to estimate, as there is less demand on heating or cooling systems. During months where temperatures are steadier, estimates can be drawn from energy bills, especially if comparing to previous years.

3. Replace non-decorative light bulbs with CFLs. CFLs use only ¼ the energy of conventional incandescent bulbs. A rough estimate of 1000 kWh/year can be saved if the 15 current incandescent lights are replaced with CFLs (based on 4 hour/day use).
4. Turn down water heater if possible. Initial testing shows the water heater to be set at 120 F, which is the recommended efficient temperature. For every 10-degree reduction, it is a savings of about 13% in hot water heater energy costs, which is usually about 13% of the yearly electrical bill.

## **Hazardous Material Management/Reduction**

### **New Project(s)**

1. Reduce amount of stored chemicals that are no longer used through proper disposal or participation in Household Hazardous Waste event.
2. Find non-toxic products for cleaning.
3. Implement an integrated pest management program.

## **Land and Water Conservation**

### **New Project(s)**

1. Replace showerhead with a head that has a water conservation setting.
2. Adjust toilets to use less water either through adjustment or addition of displacement item (brick, bottle of water, etc.). Displacement of 1 to 2 liters will reduce that amount of water use per flush. Over the course of the year, that can add up to over 1000 gallons easily in even a two-person apartment.

## **Solid Waste Reduction**

### **Reduce**

#### **New Project(s)**

1. Use environmentally friendly purchasing decisions to look for items with minimal packaging.

### **Reuse**

#### **New Project(s)**

1. Reuse cardboard boxes and packing material when possible.
2. Rather than buy lunch at fast food restaurants that often include lots of extraneous packing materials, bring lunch in a reusable lunch box and containers. By my estimate, each fast food meal results in at least one wax-lined (and non-recyclable) cup, at least one piece of cardboard, and one or two pieces of paper trash. The volume of this trash can be compacted some, but it still adds up to a few ounces. Over the course of a week and year, this volume and weight can really add up. Bringing lunch in reusable containers can cut the amount of trash generated by about 1/5 of the amount typically generated by having lunch from a fast food establishment.

### **\* Recycle**

#### **New Project(s)**

1. Recycling items: cardboard, aluminum, glass, paper, plastic. The typical household produces 4.2 lbs of trash a day. Each portion of the waste stream that can be recycled saves in terms of resources, landfill space, energy, water, and more. For example, each glass bottle recycled saves about 240 kW of energy and prevents 20% more air pollution than if a new bottle was made to replace the one recycled. By having a comprehensive recycling program targeting five of the major components of the waste stream, it is hoped that the volume of trash can be greatly reduced as well as saving on energy and other resources that would be used in the manufacture of new materials. Several bins or storage areas will be set aside specifically for recycling of materials.