

## Sustainability Practices

*In an effort to inform prospective members of Green Grove Cohousing Community what our current level of practice is, we offer this list. We consciously avoid zealotry in our commitment to sustainability practices, but our core group practices the following on a fairly consistent basis:*

- Make a conscious effort to turn off lights when leaving rooms, while sleeping, and/or if enough daylight meets your needs.
- Raise the blinds in the room to let sunlight in when it is cold outside
- Reduce energy use by keeping room temperature high summer/ low winter (74/68))
- Make an effort to tightly turn off faucets and showers and repair leaks promptly
- Use sustainable lighting and LED's
- Invest in Energy Star rated appliances (printers, microwaves, etc) and Smart Power Strips
- Participate in on-site sorting of recyclables, and transport to Far West Fibers to maximize recycling options (tennis shoes, hardback books, block styrofoam, scrap metal, etc.)
- Participate in off-site recycling for toxic wastes ( prescription drugs, batteries, paint,)
- Keep a scrap paper pile near the printer and/or copier for note paper.
- Use reusable mugs, dishware, and silverware for community use/entertaining
- Compost kitchen waste
- Carpool with friends and community members
- Consolidate errands to reduce trips
- Use energy efficient cars, walking, biking, or public transport to work and town
- Minimize water use (ex: shower for 10 minutes or less, do not leave the sink running, etc...)
- Purchase organic food when practical
- Utilize alternatives to pesticides and toxic chemicals in garden and landscaping
- Will design house to maximize energy conservation through insulation, and alternative energy sources, including solar
- Donate unwanted items (clothes, food, appliances, building supplies) to charity instead of throwing them away.

- Purchase produce at Farmer's Market or from local growers/producers

***Moving in this direction (varies amongst members based on personal preference but we anticipate greater participation, as community develops):***

- Use reusable bags when shopping or buying lunch, supplies, etc...
- Use reusable mugs, dishware, and silverware for personal use (exclusively)
- Contact junk mail providers to be deleted from mailing lists
- Purchase printing paper that contains at least 30% post-consumer recycled content or that contains 50% or greater post-consumer recycled content.
- Choose "green" products for cleaning
- Buy in bulk to reduce fuel consumption, shipping and packaging materials
- Can, freeze, dry or preserve locally produced organic produce

***Open to learning more and exploring concept***

- Purchase house building supplies with focus on low or no toxicity, energy conservation, and sustainability
- Conduct a waste audit of personal trash and recycling to see what items are thrown away. Then take steps to reduce waste. (Plan to do this to create a baseline/ pre-Green Grove to see how community impacts waste stream.)
- Use soy based inks instead of petroleum based inks or refill ink cartridges
- Look for furniture made from post-consumer or repurposed materials
- Volunteer in local recycling or sustainability organizations such as FG Sustainability Commission, ReStore, or Farmer's Market recycling station
- Donate excess produce to area food bank or social service organization
- Participate in shared electric car program with neighbors
- Develop new educational and/or practical applications for sustainability for the Green Grove Cohousing Community such as developing permaculture gardens on site

*Not interested in adopting as a group, although some members may practice:*

- Attempt to not use dryer by purchasing a drying rack or clothesline for laundry
- Practice vegetarianism
- Eliminate ownership of personal cars

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