

How Can I Help Protect the Environment?

By Mark Bevans, Source Water Specialist

Have you ever wondered what one person can do to help protect the environment? We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful state and if all of us could follow these simple suggestions we could prolong the beauty so that our children and grandchildren will also be able to enjoy the awesome State of Oregon!

Here's all we would have to do!!

1. **Recycle! Recycling really does make a difference by lessening the burden on landfills and our natural resources. Find out more about recycling by contacting our Solid Waste Technician at swtech@dialoregon.net**
 - **Take a walk! Each gallon of gasoline used by a vehicle releases 22 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.**
 - **Be sure to maintain your vehicle! Change the oil regularly, keep tires inflated properly and keep the engine tuned up! These three things can save up to ten percent fuel efficiency.**
 - **Switch three of the most used incandescent light bulbs in your home to more energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.**
 - **When purchasing new appliances, be sure to look for those with the EPA Energy Star label. These appliances use 20 to 40 percent less energy than other models.**
 - **Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. The clippings act as a natural fertilizer when they decompose and prevent them from occupying unused space in landfills.**
 - **Think twice before applying chemical pesticides to your garden. Much of this toxic material winds up in our water systems after it is washed into our storm sewers by rainfall.**
 - **Planting trees and shrubs along side of your house acts as a natural insulator, making it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.**

- **Install a low-flow showerhead. Showers account for 32 percent of home water use, and a family of four can save up to 20,000 gallons per year with these newer models.**
- **Thinking about investing? Try investing in companies that are dedicated to protecting the environment or other socially responsible ventures.**
- **Use your voice! Contact your elected representatives and tell them your opinions or write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about issue that matter to you.**
- **Vote smart! Research each candidate before going to the ballot box. Look at each candidate's history for important issues.**

It really doesn't take that much effort to make these simple changes and once you have made the change you wont even notice that it only takes a few more minutes or a few more dollars to protect the natural beauty we all enjoy!!! Mark Bevans , Source Water Specialist