



Home Green Home

It's a Dunn Deal!

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

A monthly newsletter to inform, entertain and most importantly, to remind you that I build my business with referrals!

Being Green Means Benefits All Around

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Being green is not just a mental state, it is a way of life. There are so many different ways to "go green". You will be surprised at the lack of effort needed to live green. Leading by example is the best marketing technique; you can be the "green" help we all need for inspiration.

The Three R's: *Recycle* anything that you will not be able to reuse, after you reuse items, you can still recycle them. You can recycle just about anything except for biodegradable items. You can use biodegradable items to create compost for your vegetable garden. *Reduce* the amount of trash you dispose of, by buying in bulk whenever possible. Instead of buying those packages of tiny little bags of chips, buy the family size bag and divide them in Ziploc bags, then reuse the Ziploc bags whenever possible. You can also reduce waste by reusing items. *Reuse* everything that comes into your home whenever possible. Use the plastic grocery bags to line waste bins and litter boxes. Reuse newspaper by saving them for art projects or place settings for craft projects, then you can recycle them.



Grow Your Food: Growing your own vegetables organically can help the environment in several ways. You can take care of insects without the use of pesticides, which are harmful for the atmosphere and, by making your own vegetables, you save yourself from buying them from the grocery store. This method will save on fuel used to transport vegetables to the store, and reduce packaging materials. Besides helping the environment, growing your own food helps you. Fresh vegetables are healthier than those bought in the store, even organic versions, and they are less expensive as well. The less money wasted on unnecessarily expensive food, the more you have available to devote just plain living.

Benefits the Future: When you go green you are ensuring that you pass down this trait to your children who will learn through example. Your children will then do their part in ensuring that this world is around for decades to come. What's more, teaching children a green lifestyle will make living in an environmentally healthy way seem natural to them, and they will be more likely to follow that lifestyle as adults.

Five Easy Ways to "Go Green"

- 1. Bag It** - When you go out shopping, bring your own reusable bags. This preserves resources by cutting down on the huge number of paper and plastic bags that are discarded after a single trip. You can find reusable bags for 50 cents a bag or make your own like I did out of old fabric and keep them in the car.
- 2. Save on Electricity** - There are many ways to trim those electric bills. Wash your laundry in cold water instead of hot, air dry your dishes in the dishwasher, line dry your linens, use a toaster oven for small heating needs instead of a bigger electric stove, install a programmable thermostat or install dimmer switches. Open windows to let the light in, turn off unneeded lights and appliances, and unplug unused electronics to counter the 'energy vampire' effect.
- 3. Save on Gas** - Every gallon of gasoline you burn produces 19 pounds of carbon dioxide, so it pays to conserve (in more ways than one). Your car will work more efficiently if you obey the speed limit and avoid rapid, unnecessary acceleration. (I am constantly trying to remember these things!) Keep your tires properly inflated.
- 4. Shop a Farmer** - Shop at your local farmers' market. This will help support farmers in our area, so they won't be forced to sell off their land for development. Your food will taste wonderful and be better for you. I have been freezing "My Dad's Sweet Corn" for weeks!
- 5. Water Smarts** - Drink water from the tap, instead of buying single-use bottled water which requires much more energy to produce, store and transport. Barely 20% of those plastic bottles end up getting recycled, and most are made out of petroleum. Use filters if you are concerned about your local water supply.



Diana Dunn, ASP, CRS, GRI
REALTOR®

Garlic-Roasted Tomatoes

Ingredients

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs | 1 tbs olive oil |
| 1 tbs minced garlic | 2 large tomatoes, halved |

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°F.
2. In a mixing bowl, stir together bread crumbs, garlic and olive oil.
3. Arrange tomato halves, cut side up, on a foil-lined baking tray.
4. Top with bread crumb mixture. Bake 10 minutes, or until crumb topping turns golden brown.



Solar Photovoltaic: How It Works

With a strong emphasis being turned on conservation efforts, you've probably heard the term **solar photovoltaic** in regards to green energy.

What Is It? The best way to explain what solar photovoltaic energy is would be to tell you to look at an old calculator. Chances are at some point you've seen one of those solar calculators that doesn't have a battery. As long as you have a light source, the calculator will work. These calculators were able to work because a solar panel was taking energy from the light source and changing it into a higher state of energy to create electricity.



How It Works—The panel you saw in those calculators was taking light and converting it in to electricity. That's the basic explanation of solar photovoltaic. The more scientific explanation is a little more complicated. A cell, or the panel, contains a semi-conductor. When light hit's the semi-conductor, it absorbs the energy contained in the light. That energy is stored, and released into the unit that is requiring power. The photovoltaic cells are made of silicon. This is one of the most abundant resources on earth.

Practical Uses—Technology for solar photovoltaic energy is still too high to compete with grid electricity there are financial incentives available. Depending on the size of your home and your family's typical energy usage, the number of panels required to power your home may not be something that is feasible. The panels can still be very expensive, and typical energy consumption can require many panels. There are some practical uses for the technology as it stands.

Water Heaters—You can save energy consumption by installing a solar water heater system in your home. These work by using the solar photovoltaic energy to warm the water up as it circulates through the pipes. You can cut your energy or natural gas costs by almost 75%. Having a solar water heater installed will start to pay for itself almost immediately.

Small Circuits—You can have an electrician set up a small solar circuit in your home. If you decide to do this you will want to make sure that you have a professional install this, and that you don't have major appliances running on the circuit. This is a good idea for bedrooms and bathrooms. You can run several small appliances with ease on a photovoltaic circuit.

Jacuzzis—A great use of this technology is to heat your hot tub or swimming pool. Most people will only use it during good weather. Chances are you will have plenty of sunlight to power the heater to these with just a few cells. A lot of newer hot tubs or Jacuzzis come with the option already in place to power through solar energy. This saves a lot of money since the heat is contained to the solar unit and you won't use any of your existing electricity to power it.

Get Rid of Junk Mail!

Fortunately for us all, there are ways to triumph over the junk mail debacle. EcoCycle.org and StopJunkMail.org have compiled the key steps to ending the junk mail trail yourself. They give you all the details on who to call, what online forms to fill out, and who to give the "Return to Sender" treatment.

Fun Things To Do in September

Sept. 4-6, Sept. 11-12 Ride the train to Oktoberfest at the State Fairgrounds. Catch the train in Fishers and go to Oktoberfest that moves to the State Fair this year!

Sept. 10-13 Ringling Brothers Barnam & Bailey Circus at Conseco Fieldhouse

Sept. 18-20 14th Annual Indy Irish Festival at Military Park

Sept. 19-27 Indy Jazz Fest on the lawn at White River State Park

Sept. 19 Kenny Chesney in concert at Lucas



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The finest
compliment I can
ever receive is a
referral from my
friends and clients.
Thank you so much!



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