

# Green Design Challenge

## Make a Green Home Pledge

**Fact:** The federal government offers many programs to help homeowners “go green.” These programs change from year to year, but they often offer homeowners extra money for installing solar panels, upgrading appliances to energy-efficient ones, and replacing old roofs, doors, and windows.

Your home is a great place to begin “going green.” Read about some simple ways you can save water, use less energy, and reduce waste where you live. Then use the worksheet to make a green plan for you and your family.



### Save Water

Many homes waste a lot of water through leaky faucets. Go on a family faucet check. If your family finds any that are leaking, learn together how to fix them. Sometimes people use more water than they think. Set a timer for 5 minutes to limit your time in the shower to use less water. You can also collect rain water to water plants and lawns.

### Use Less Energy

Reduce the energy you use at home by turning off lights when you leave a room. Unplug appliances and electronics when you aren't using them. Ask your family members if they know about energy-efficient thermostats and lightbulbs, which use less energy. Try closing shades or curtains to keep heat inside in winter and cool air inside in summer.



### Reduce Waste

Find creative ways to reuse items before you throw them away or recycle them. A soda bottle planter and an egg carton organizer are two ways to reuse household items and reduce waste. What can you do to create new things from trash?

# Green Design Challenge

## Make a Green Home Pledge

**Step 1:** Walk through your home to get ideas for saving water, using less energy, and reusing items.

**Step 2:** Use the space below to create a pledge, or promise, to “go green” at home.

**Step 3:** Share your pledge with your family! Try to make one green improvement in your home each week.



Share your work online. Tag us @EMKInstitute and use the hashtags #Civicsathome #EarthDay2020