



# Green

## tips

"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you"


-Langston Hughes



Mark your calendars!

National Bike to Work Week 2015 will be held on **May 11-15!**

**Be part of the National Bike Challenge!**  
Form your team today and log on to [www.nationalbikechallenge.org](http://www.nationalbikechallenge.org)  
Workplace: "City Of EC"



Contact Robert Nelson  
[Robert.Nelson@EauClaireWI.gov](mailto:Robert.Nelson@EauClaireWI.gov)  
for more information!



**Eau Claire** is very lucky to experience good air quality every day, unlike other areas of WI. **Let's keep it that way!**

Below are a few ideas that you can take to help keep our air clean.

### Buy local food

Purchase local produce at the farmers market and help reduce air emissions! **Fresh produce travels over 1,500 miles** on average before being eaten. That's approximately the mileage of a drive from **Wisconsin to Arizona!** Tractor trailers, which haul much of our produce, get about six miles to a gallon of diesel fuel. Even though they can hold a lot of veggies per load, think about how the emissions add up. For example, **each gallon of diesel fuel emits 22 pounds of carbon dioxide**, the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)



### National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast.

#### May 14<sup>th</sup> is Bike to Work Day!

Ride to save money and time; pump those pedals to preserve your health and the environment; or simply to **explore our beautiful Eau Claire**. Bicycling is a way to immediately reduce your carbon footprint.



- ✓ Bicycling uses no fuel.
- ✓ Bicycles take a lot less energy to make than a car.
- ✓ Bikes don't require toxic batteries or motor oil.

### No Idling!

Each day, Americans waste approximately **3.8 million gallons of gasoline** by voluntarily idling their cars!



#### Myth 1: Cars should run in an idling mode for several minutes before being driven.

Wrong. Modern engines do not need more than a **few seconds** of idling time before they can be driven safely. The best way to warm up a car is to drive it!



#### Myth 2: Each time you start your car you waste more gasoline than if you let it idle.

Wrong. Experts say there is a maximum **10 second** break-even rule. If you are idling longer than 10 seconds, both you and the engine are better off if the engine is turned off and restarted.



#### Myth 3: Repeatedly restarting your car is hard on the engine and quickly drains the battery.

Wrong. The opposite is true; idling an engine forces it to operate in a **very inefficient** and gasoline-rich mode that, over time, can degrade the engine's performance and **reduce mileage**.

### Did you know that...

#### The City of Eau Claire has an Anti-Idle Policy?

Vehicle idle time may not exceed **10 minutes** in weather conditions of less than 32 degrees for the purpose of engine heating. Motorized vehicles are not allowed to idle within **100 feet** of a building's fresh air intake.

