

City of  
Eau Claire

# GREEN TEAM

it's GREEN WEEK, SO...

SPRING IT ON!  
KEEPING IT ON!

LET'S GO  
**GREEN!**  
**GREEN!**

PLUS, green  
**FAST** facts!

Green Tips

SPRING 2017



As a City employee, what can **you** do during  
**GREEN WEEK?** Check out these ideas to  
earn points and **WIN STUFF!**

- ◆ Participate on April 22nd in the Amazing Eau Claire Clean Up (chance to help beautify downtown is included this year) - earns **2** points!
- ◆ Recycle old electronics with First Choice. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Recycle old plastic film (shopping bags, bread bags, etc.) at a drop-off location. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Spring cleaning – donate unused items like clothing to local donation centers. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Bring unwanted pharmaceutical wastes to EC County or another drop-off location. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Bring yard waste to the City's Green Waste Facility. FYI, residential compost and food waste organics curbside service is also provided by this hauler. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Ride your bike, walk, take transit or carpool to run an errand or on your commute. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Use reusable bags (or no bags for a few items) when shopping. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Reduce junk mail: CatalogChoice, National Do Not Mail List. **(1 pt.)**
- ◆ Upgrade something in your home to a more efficient device (lights, electronics, water fixture, etc.) **(1 pt.)**

**GREEN WEEK**  
**4.17.17 - 4.21.17**

Complete at least  
**5** of these activities  
to earn points during  
**GREEN WEEK**  
and be entered to win  
**green gift certificates !!!**

# FOOD WASTE **FAST** FACTS:

## One-third

One-third of the food in the United States is spoiled or wasted before it is consumed.



## 20%

The EPA estimates that food is the single largest component in everyday trash, making up over **20%** of discarded household waste.

USDA app to help consumers understand food storage and keep food items fresh longer:

<https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/foodkeeperapp/>

## 5

### 5 Suggestions for Reducing Food Waste:

1. Shop your refrigerator first! Cook or eat what you already have at home before buying more.
2. Plan your menu before you go shopping and buy only those things on your menu.
3. Buy only what you realistically need and will use. Buying in bulk only saves money if you are able to use the food before it spoils.

4. Freeze, preserve or can surplus fruits and vegetables — especially abundant seasonal produce at your local Farmer's Market. (opens May 6th!)

5. At restaurants, order only what you can finish by asking about portion sizes and be aware of side dishes included with entrees. Take home the leftovers and keep them for your next meal.



**green team**

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Here are just a few simple things you can do to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home as warmer temperatures arrive:

1. **Service your air conditioner.** Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent.



2. **Open windows.** Opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.



3. **Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.



4. **Cook outside.** On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.

5. **Bring in sunlight.** During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.



6. **Switch on bathroom fans.** Bathroom fans suck out heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort.

7. **Set the thermostat.** On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10 percent.

