



**Environmental Sustainability Committee <http://www.esc.mtu.edu/>**

## How Can I Make a Difference?

- ✓ Join us for our Community Clean-Up this Friday, Sept. 01 at 10:00 a.m. in the Rosza Parking Lot (sponsored by the ESC and the Office of First Year Programs)
- ✓ Attend the ESC clean-up activities on MADD (Make A Difference Day) on October 21.
- ✓ Check out the ESC web site for more ideas about what YOU can do:  
<http://www.esc.mtu.edu/whatCanIDo/>



### For example, you can:

- Take advantage of all the recycling opportunities at Michigan Tech!
- Consider shopping at second-hand stores (to promote re-using items), and participate in the ESC's annual "Drop-N-Shop" event at the end of each school year (donate items you want to get rid of, pick up items you need).
- Support the activities of the ESC by sharing information with others and joining a subcommittee!

Learn more about the MTU Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) by visiting [www.esc.mtu.edu](http://www.esc.mtu.edu) or contacting [shalini@mtu.edu](mailto:shalini@mtu.edu), then join a subcommittee of the ESC— Students for Environmental Sustainability (SfES), Education/Public Relations, Green Operations (Green Building Design, Landscaping, and Energy Efficiency), Green Purchasing, Recycling, or Transportation Alternatives.

For an interactive list of what you can do in your dorm room, go to: [www.onesweetwhirled.org/dorm.html](http://www.onesweetwhirled.org/dorm.html) or to offset carbon emissions: <http://www.lickglobalwarming.org/personal.cfm>

No matter where you live, you can:

Live by the **10 minute rule**: Turn off the lights if you'll be gone for more than 10 minutes.

**Turn off or hibernate computers at night**, or when they won't be used for a long time.

**Ride your bike** to school/work/ downtown/etc., or take public transportation.

If you must drive, at least **carpool!**

Join other organizations that are environmentally friendly (Students for Conservation Biology, Society of Environmental Engineers, more - <http://www.sa.mtu.edu/stulife/stuorg/>).

**Compost!** Try these links for "How to..."

[www.gardenguides.com/TipsandTechniques/compost.htm](http://www.gardenguides.com/TipsandTechniques/compost.htm)

[www.vegweb.com/composting](http://www.vegweb.com/composting)

Join the MTU Green list serve to receive messages and updates about ESC meetings and related campus sustainability issues. To join, visit the following link and simply hit send: [mtugreen-l@mtu.edu](mailto:mtugreen-l@mtu.edu)

Try to use less paper in general. Print on scrap paper and print double-sided whenever possible. When purchasing paper, buy recycled content paper. Using less paper is better than buying recycled, but if you have to purchase paper, buy recycled paper. A great recycled paper web site is: [www.treecycle.com/welcome.html](http://www.treecycle.com/welcome.html)

Visit the ESC Links for fun efficiency calculators & more (<http://www.esc.mtu.edu/links/>)



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## **Quick Tips to Help You Save Energy While You're Away on A University Break**

(Compiled by the MTU Environmental Sustainability Committee with excerpts from the care2.com web-site)

Did you know that by not "weatherizing" a house, the heating bill is increased by an average of 25-40 percent? This year, the price of natural gas is twice what it was a few years ago, and oil is over \$50 a barrel (almost twice what it was last year). Now, more than ever, being energy efficient makes Dollar\$ and \$ense.

### Window Leaks:

- Two types of products that are easy to install are rope caulk and V-seal weather stripping. The rope caulk is applied in the fall and removed in the spring. With rope caulk in place, you cannot open the window. The V-seal is applied on the window jamb and enables you to open and close the window while it is in place.
- Note: Once you have identified the air leaks, you are going to need to fill them in, and this is where you need to be careful not to add any unwanted pollution into your home from volatile organic compounds in caulking. The caulk that lasts the longest and also has the fewest additives is 100 percent silicone.
- Another area that may be leaking is around the window frame. A bead of caulking compound down both sides and at top and bottom should seal out vagrant breezes.
- Have you seen those clamshell locks on many double-hung windows? Their purpose isn't just security but also to pull the sashes together to keep cold air out.
- The west-facing windows are most likely to catch the prevailing winds, so you should check them first; the north-facing windows will be exposed to the coldest air, so check them next. The east-facing windows are next, and southern windows (which face the sun) are probably the least vulnerable, so they can wait till last.

### Thermostat Settings:

Turn down the thermostats even if you'll just be out for an evening. If you'll be away for a weekend or more, lower the thermostats to 55 F. You'll save on heating without risking a freeze-up of your water pipes, and you'll save a little on the operation of the refrigerator and freezer, which won't need to work so hard to maintain their cool.

*A common myth is that when you reduce the thermostat for only a few hours it will take more heat to bring your home back up to the desired temperature. This is not so. You will use less energy overall even when you warm up your house from a cooler temperature.*

### Refrigerator Issues:

- Check to see if you have a power-saving switch or a summer-winter switch. Many refrigerators have a small heater (yes, a heater!) inside the walls to prevent condensation build-up on the fridge walls. If yours does, switch it to the power-saving (winter) mode.
- Defrost your fridge if significant frost has built up.
- Turn off your automatic ice maker. It's more efficient to make ice in ice trays.
- If you can, move the fridge away from any stove, dishwasher, or direct sunlight.
- Set your refrigerator's temperature between 38 F and 42 F, and your freezer between 10 F and 15 F. Use a real thermometer for this, as the temperature dial on the fridge doesn't tell real temperature.
- Cover liquids and wrap food stored in the fridge. Uncovered foods release moisture (and get dried out), which makes the compressor work harder.
- Keep the fridge full. An empty fridge cycles frequently without any mass to hold the cold. Beer makes excellent mass, and you probably always wanted a good excuse to put more of it in the fridge, but it tends to disappear. In all honesty, plain water in old milk jugs works just as well.



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**It's Good to Know:  
10 Ways to Save Money on Gas**

1. Lighten up. Leadfooting at 75 miles per hour instead of 65 will cut your fuel economy by 10%.
2. Avoid the rush hour. Plan trips or stagger your work hours to minimize stop-and-go traffic, which burns more gas than going at a steady speed.
3. Take a load off. Carrying an extra 100 pounds in the trunk cuts fuel economy by 1%.
4. Use your overdrive. If you have a manual transmission, shift up as soon as possible.
5. Keep an eye on your tire pressure. For every 3 pounds below the recommended tire pressure, fuel economy drops about 1%.
6. Keep your car tuned up. A clogged air filter can cut mileage by as much as 20%; a faulty oxygen sensor can cut it by up to 40%.
7. Use the most efficient grade of oil for your car. Using 10W-30 in an engine designed for 5W-30 can cut mileage by 1% to 2%.
8. Use regular gasoline unless your owner's manual says otherwise. High-octane fuel won't improve performance in cars that don't require it.
9. Park in the shade. Fuel evaporates more quickly in direct sun, and air conditioners need more fuel to cool hot interiors.
10. Choose efficiency. A car that gets 30 mpg saves \$600 a year in gas costs over one that gets 20 mpg (assuming \$3 per gallon and 15,000 miles driven).

*Sources:*

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy at [www.greencars.com](http://www.greencars.com)

U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency at [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)



The "Ecological Footprint" is a highly acclaimed tool that measures how much nature we consume. It documents how much biologically productive land and water area is necessary to produce the resources we consume and to absorb the waste we generate.

To calculate **YOUR** footprint, visit

[www.myfootprint.org/](http://www.myfootprint.org/)

