

Moss Green

- Line dry your wash
- Start and maintain a compost pile
- Purchase certified sustainably harvested wood that is old-growth free
- Weed by hand instead of using herbicides
- Start a recycling program in a local school or at your workplace
- Use natural insect control in gardens
- Buy electronics that contain recycled materials, have high energy efficiency, long life expectancy, ease of upgradeability and can be recycled at end-of-life
- Avoid buying and using disposable products
- Insulate your home with environmentally friendly products
- Recycle old tires



Forest Green

- Purchase a fuel efficient vehicle
- Take eco-vacations – enjoy your time off while contributing to habitat restoration and conservation
- Adopt a pond or stream and collect litter to help revitalize the habitat
- Travel by train instead of by plane
- Recycle old appliances
- Choose not to water your lawn
- Create a Backyard for Wildlife on your property
- Walk, ride your bike, or use public transportation to get around
- Buy local produce that is in season
- On hot days, wait until dusk to drive, fill up your gas tank, or use power equipment



Evergreen

- Use alternate sources of energy to power your home
- Grow your own fruits and vegetables
- Install flow restrictors in your home
- Reduce the number of cars that your family owns
- Collect rain water and use it to water your lawn and garden
- Plant a rain garden to manage storm water run-off from roofs and driveways
- Avoid products that are over-packaged
- Purchase cradle to cradle products that never enter the waste stream because they're designed to be upcycled
- Purchase an on-demand water heater
- Research all products before purchasing



Use this guide to help lighten your impact on the Earth and the animals that share it with us.

Want to know more? Check out:
www.detroitzoo.org/shadesofgreen

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Shades of Green GUIDE



DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Tadpole Green

- Adjust and/or monitor your thermostat
- Turn off lights when not needed
- Reuse bags
- Use old or mismatched socks or worn out t-shirts to clean
- Adjust the temperature of your refrigerator and freezer
- Choose draft or toner saving option when printing
- Drink tap water when available
- Don't release pets into the wild - they can cause havoc to the natural balance of an ecosystem
- Turn water heater down to 120 degrees F
- Pack your lunch in a reusable container and use a cloth napkin



Fern Green

- Borrow books from a library or your friends rather than buying new
- Use both sides of a piece of paper when printing
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth and doing dishes
- Boil only as much water as needed
- Run your dishwasher only when full
- Do not choose exotic pets for a companion animal - they are often taken from the wild
- Choose to bypass your washing machine's pre-wash cycle and opt to wash in cold water
- Displace the water in your toilet tanks to conserve water when flushing
- Take short showers
- Place old towels under your doors to prevent drafts



Jungle Green

- Decide what item(s) you want before opening the fridge
- Don't pollute storm drains with liquids or litter
- Check tire pressure often to make sure they meet manufacturer's recommendations
- Obey speed limits to increase gas mileage
- Donate old books to libraries and friends
- Recycle or refill ink cartridges
- Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use or plug them into a power strip and turn it off when finished
- Recycle at home
- Use natural lighting when possible
- Purchase a reusable coffee filter



Tree Frog Green

- Wash your car at home using a bucket to conserve water
- Take reusable bags to the store
- Use cloth napkins and dishcloths
- Fix leaky faucets
- Choose energy efficient appliances
- Purchase shade grown coffee - it is grown under the canopy layer of trees rather than in clear cut fields
- Opt for a low-flow showerhead
- Choose to wash clothes only when necessary and when you have a full load
- Opt to utilize a reusable water bottle
- Use rechargeable batteries



Organic Green

- Use a push mower for your lawn
- Bring a reusable container from home to store uneaten food when dining out
- Purchase recycled toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissue
- Support organizations that buy land to conserve it
- Donate used items instead of throwing them away
- Only replace décor when necessary
- Purchase products with a high percentage of post-consumer recycled materials
- Participate in community clean-ups
- Buy environmentally safe cleaning products
- Purchase carbon emission credits

