

Go Green challenge

Tea 4 U, LLC and the members of the staff pledge that:

REDUCE

- * We use natural materials (like wood, bamboo and organic cotton) where possible.
- * We turn off lights in rooms we are not using.
- * We use power strips on our electronics, computer, and TV.
- * We unplug electronics and electrical kitchen tools when they are not used.
- * We use a laptop instead of desktop computers and use CO² screen savers.
- * We use a microwave or small oven rather than the large oven where appropriate.
- * We cook efficiently using after heat from oven and fitting stove rings to pots/pans and fill the oven when baking.
- * We dress appropriately instead of blasting heat or AC, prefer fans to AC and turn them off when we leave the room.
- * We draw the curtains to prevent heat or cold to enter and open windows for fresh air instead of raising AC.
- * We strive to have a properly insulated property.
- * We have solar panels installed in our main office and purchase 100% renewable energy for the workplace.
- * We check furnace filters monthly.
- * We are considerate about water use and don't let it run. We regularly check for, and fix, drips and leaks.
- * We have low-flushing ECO-green toilets in our main office and gradually upgrade workplace to same standard.
- * We use filtered tap water instead of bottled.
- * We use reusable water bottles instead of disposable plastic and welcome reusable bottles/mugs.
- * We use china plates, reusable cups, and steel flatware instead of disposables for tea lounge guests and events.
- * We use recyclable/reusable containers for leftovers and takeout.
- * We prefer glass and porcelain containers instead of plastic or Styrofoam.
- * We use recycled and/or reusable shopping bags.
- * We choose #1 or 2 plastic over other non-recyclable plastics.
- * We use non-toxic/biodegradable cleaning products.
- * We use washable cloth napkins and tablecloths instead of paper where appropriate.
- * We use non-print tea canisters, non-print boxes, and non-gloss labels. We maintain our printing materials at very low quantity to avoid over-printing. We digitally print our labels in small quantities to avoid over-production and prefer soy ink and recycled paper products.
- * We print on both sides of the paper and use paper scraps for note paper.
- * We print our publications via online publishers, i.e. print on demand on recycled paper and soy-based ink.
- * We pay bills online and use paperless statements.
- * We prefer emails for invitations vs. paper/envelopes.
- * We use recycled paper products.
- * We use refillable lighters instead of disposable or matches.
- * We use only practical promotional items.
- * We use refillable pens and mechanical pencils.
- * We use cotton towels instead of paper where appropriate.
- * We regularly check tire pressure of our vehicles and use the recommended grade of motor oil.
- * We turn off the engine when waiting for longer periods of time.

* We turn off the AC in the car and roll down the windows instead.

* We plan shopping trips and combine smaller errands into one large trip.

REUSE

* We reuse plastic and glass containers where possible.

* We use special reusable green plastic bags for vegetables.

* We reuse boxes and shipping materials for shipped items where possible.

* We reuse cleaning bottles (buy bulk and refill smaller reusable bottles).

* We make compost from kitchen including used tealeaves and other scraps.

RECYCLE

* We recycle ALL paper, cardboard, and #1, 2, and 5 plastics.

* We recycle plastic bags.

* We recycle plastic bottle caps and any other recyclable items (corks, CDs, DVDs, batteries, highlighters).

* We up-cycle bags from loose tea (Tea 4 U collects from customers, too,) plus other bags and up-cyclable items for TerraCycle project (as a brigade member).

* We recycle/resell books and magazine.

* We recycle via local thrift stores, Freecycle, and Craigslist (give away or sell).

* We participate in municipal or district clean-ups and accept specific items for recycling at our store.

REBUY

* We buy local, organic and fair trade products where possible and prefer environmentally conscious vendors.

* We use fluorescent light bulbs and LED lights.

* We use sustainable soy/toxic free candles and reuse/recycle containers.

* We have energy efficient appliances and opt for high level Energy Star products when replacing old ones.

* We buy biodegradable garbage bags.

* We buy used books and textbooks.

* We have ordered an electric car and strive to conserve gas.

* We buy ECO-green products whenever possible and prefer wrapping/packaging of reusable/recyclable materials.

* Our printing material is from green printers.

* We buy non-toxic laundry detergent in concentration.

* Like ourselves, we encourage staff members to practice a sustainable life style at home as well.

Ocean Township, August 24, 2009, updated August 4, 2011

Signed: *Kirsten Kristensen, Owner*