

## Everyday Household Decisions: Your 'Home' is the Most Basic Unit of Society

Four areas you can impact. Simple questions to help you and your household be more sustainable.

### Utilities

Before you use utilities ask yourself:

- Can I reduce my use of this utility?
- Can I get the same utility service another way?
- Can I be more efficient in the way I use my utility?

### Shopping

While you are shopping ask yourself:

- Do I really need this product?
- How was this item produced?
- How does this item affect my health?
- What will I do with this when I no longer need it?

### Mobility

Before you travel somewhere ask yourself:

- Do I really need to go?
- Can I go somewhere local?
- Do I have to drive?

### Waste

Before you throw something away ask yourself:

- Can I reuse this?
- If I can't use this, can someone else?
- Can I recycle this?
- Even if I have produced it, can I still reduce my waste?

## Take Back Your Time on October 24

Chill out! That is the theme of this year's Take Back Your Time Day, which falls on the same day as events planned by the organization "350" to bring attention to global warming. "350" ([www.350.org](http://www.350.org)) is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, measured in "Parts Per Million." Currently, CO2 levels are at 385 PPM. The Take Back Your Time organization encourages reducing work hours and unnecessary consumption to help cool the planet ([www.timeday.org](http://www.timeday.org)).

## Comptroller's Office Recycles Paper for Paper Pads

Under the heading of "little savings add up," the Comptroller's Office started making scratch pads from paper that was used on one side before 1996. Dane County Printing and Services uses the paper they provide and make scratch pads for them. This is a green and economical way to provide scratch pads to the 30+ employees in the Comptroller's Office.

The financial cost savings for small pads used by many of the staff for phone message pads may not be that much at \$126.50 over about a 6 month period, but the green savings of reusing the paper before it goes to be recycled and not having to purchase phone paper pads is priceless.

This information was provided by Sue Aiello, former Administrative Clerk at the Comptroller's Office and Mary Lloyd, current Administrative Clerk.

Do you have a sustainable office practice that you'd like to share? Send us an e-mail at the Sustainability Suggestion Box found on EmployeeNet or the city of Madison website:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/tns/suggestions/index.cfm>