

# GREEN TIPS

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**Tips for Homeowners & Landlords looking to make a positive change on our environment**



# ENERGY SOURCES

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Cut out the use of non-renewable energy sources such as coal and oil. Non-renewable sources of energy release toxic emissions which are harmful for the environment. Switch to renewable energy such as wind energy and solar energy. There are grants available to help you switch to the use of renewable energy. Switching to renewable energy will save you money and save our planet in the long run. There are other grants available to improve the quality of homes, which makes homes more efficient in storing and using energy:

**Better Energy Homes Scheme:** a scheme for homeowners and landlords who want to do certain energy updates and manage the process themselves.

**Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme:** a scheme for people on low incomes which provides free home energy upgrades.

**National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme:** a scheme for homeowners, landlord, and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) who want to bring their homes up to a BER rating of B2 or above using a private company to manage the project.



# MINIMISE PLASTIC USE

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Plastic is an oil-based material which has been studied heavily over the last number of years. Research shows that various chemicals found in plastic has been affecting the ecosystem significantly. It is a big concern for our future as some animals may become threatened by extinction.

The chemicals used in hard plastics can have an impact on human health. This is a major dilemma as currently only 8% of plastic is being recycled globally. There is approximately 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic in the world and it is estimated that 6.3 billion tonnes of it is trash. The only way of tackling this problem is to cut down on the use of plastic.



# TRAVEL

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According to Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 20% of damaging greenhouse gases come from transport. Ireland as a nation is relatively small, but has one of the highest greenhouse gas emissions per person globally. Reduce greenhouse emissions by carpooling, cycling, walking, or going electric. Enquire about the Bike to Work Scheme in your workplace which can save you up to 52% on the purchase of a bicycle. There are also grants available for electric vehicles and electric vehicle chargers.



# QUALITY OF CLOTHING

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Fast fashion is generally made from poorer quality materials such as polyester which cannot be recycled. Polyester and other plastics can make their way into the water supply, bypassing the washing machine. Choose to purchase more durable clothing less frequently ('slow fashion'). Rent clothes that you are likely to only wear once. Repair and 'upcycle' your existing clothing.





# SHOP LOCAL

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When you buy products from your supermarket do you ever check where the product came from? Chances are that your supermarket apples did not come from Ireland. Imagine what distance was travelled and how many emissions were released for your apples to be supplied to your supermarket. Try do your best to shop for locally-produced foodstuffs. Buy your fruit and vegetables from a local supplier. It will also benefit the local economy.

# COMPOSTING

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An average family in Ireland can waste up to €50 a month on leftover food. Turn leftover food into compost. It helps you avoid throwing away food and is a great fertiliser.