

What You Can Do

Slowly the world is realizing that sustainability is good for business and necessary for our environment.

As the world becomes more aware, you will be able to find many options to be green.

Today, these green options can be found with a quick Google search.

Here are just a few ideas to consider.



Plumbers

Faced with the worst drought ever in the west, there is more reason than ever to consult green plumbers who have been schooled in water efficiency.

A green plumber can install a solar water heater or high-efficiency toilet. They can measure how much water your family consumes. They can give you advice on the best water-saving appliances and rebates.

A good place to locate one is through **Green Plumbers USA**, which lets you search its extensive list of certified plumbers.

Walk, Bike, Carpool

This is the most obvious thing you can do to help reduce your personal carbon footprint.

Salons and Spas

Many of the beauty products we use are loaded with hazardous chemicals. Not only are they harmful to our environment, they can damage your skin or hair.

Look for products that use organic eco-friendly ingredients. For a spa try **Green Spa Network**, **Spa Index's Greenide** or **GoGreenSalon**.

Auto Clubs

It's hard to believe that there is an eco-friendly alternative to AAA. It's called the **Better World Club** (BWC), and it offers assistance to stranded drivers and bicyclists alike.

BWC doesn't use its membership fees to lobby against the Clean Air Act, bike paths or mass transit. In addition they donate 1% of their annual revenues to environmental causes.

Auto membership starts at \$60 with discounts for hybrid and biodiesel owners. They offer enrollees carbon offsets against their vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions.

Lawn Care

Green living extends beyond the walls of your home into your yard. The trend is to plant drought and pest-resistant native plants.

In addition, you want to avoid using harmful synthetic pesticides and fertilizers as well as fossil fuel-powered lawn equipment.

The best place to find an eco-friendly lawn-care service or landscaper is to ask for names at a nearby garden center. In addition, check out **Beyond Pesticides'** 40-state directory of eco-friendly landscape and lawn services.

Home Cleaning

Today it's hard enough to find someone to clean your house without worrying about products that don't pollute air and waterways, disrupt hormones, trigger asthma and allergies, or lead to cancer and other health problems.

Fortunately, many house-cleaning services are now using eco-friendly equipment and nontoxic cleaners.

You might consider using a national chain like **Maid Brigade**, **The Cleaning Authority**, **Molly Maid** or **EcoMaid**s that will use green products.