

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CITY OF OXFORD
MAYOR'S HOME CONSERVATION TIPS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

May, the time of year when families are planning for vacation, so many things to do before you leave so many places to choose from and so many ways to get there. With so much to do before you even leave on vacation, we are offering tips to help you have a more eco-friendly vacation than ever before.

Pre-trip planning:

- Put your lights on a timer, rather than leaving lights on all the time. This will discourage would be criminals as well as save energy.
- Unplug all electronics; it is not enough to simply turn them off, just having them plugged in burns electricity.
- If your trip is in the winter, set your thermostat at 60 degrees to keep pipes from freezing and if your trip is in the summer, turn off any cooling systems.
- Don't forget to stop newspapers and magazines

Destinations:

- Keep your destination close to home; you may be surprised at the interesting and educational places to visit right in your own "backyard".
- Camping is a very eco-friendly vacation, provided you remember the rule "leave no trace behind" meaning leave the site looking as though no one has been there.
- Recycle your trash.
- Do your exploring on foot or by bike.
- If you don't like "roughing" it, check out eco-friendly hotels and lodges.
- Buy local! Help the local economy of wherever you travel by making sure that you buy locally made souvenirs and eating at mom and pop type restaurants.

Transportation:

- Take a bus or a train – either one is better for the environment than a plane.
- Once at your destination, walk or ride bicycles as much as possible, you will not only help the environment but it will make for a richer and more enjoyable experience. If a car is essential try to rent a hybrid.

Whatever your vacation plans, be an eco-tourist, "take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints". By doing these few things we can all begin to leave a cleaner greener world for future generations.

For more tips visit: www.gadling.com/2012/.../10-tips-for-a-more-eco-friendly-vacation

*Green Challenge Committee members:
Commissioners: Betty Moseley (Chair), Ron Bullock, and Calvin "C.J." Harris*