

Protecting Our Environment

Tips On Being Green At Home And Away

(NAPSA)—Today, finding ways to be more energy efficient and eco friendly isn't just good for the environment—it can be good for your home, your family and your bottom line. Here are hints on how:

• **Reduce, reuse, recycle:** Take a look around—a simple mental checklist of reusable, recyclable items can make a world of difference with no more effort than a weekly drop-off. For example, take old books and donate them to a school or library. If you buy eggs in cartons, drop the empties off at an elementary school or after-school center to be used for art projects. If you're renovating your home or even just planning a few small home improvement projects, remember that just about everything, from old flooring to doorknobs and light fixtures, can be repurposed by a charity if not by you.

• **Eat and drink your way to a healthier planet:** How (and what) you eat can make a big impact on the environment and the community. Farmers' markets are often bursting with fresh produce. Supporting one helps preserve the vitality of community agriculture. Buying local means produce is fresher—it hasn't been shipped from hundreds of miles away. To keep those fruits and veggies fresher longer, you can get a refrigerator with humidity-controlled crispers. Using your refrig-



There are many ways to make little changes in and outside of your home that not only benefit the environment but can help save money and energy and give you peace of mind in knowing you're doing your part.

erator's water dispense system and a reusable bottle instead of bottled water can keep up to 300 plastic bottles a year from ending up in landfills.

• **Let the housework do the saving for you:** New home appliances are far more efficient than older models. New washers such as the Energy Star-certified Amana 3.6-cu.-ft., high-efficiency washer use 75 percent less water and 82 percent less energy than those manufactured just a decade ago. If you've been considering a new washer or dryer, the good news is it could save you money on your utility bills.

• **Learn more:** You can find additional facts on efficient appliances at www.amana.com.