

## Sherman Green Community Pledge



I pledge to make at least three environmentally-responsible choices over the next year to preserve, protect, and promote a sustainable future. I pledge to:

- Use clean electricity. I will sign up at [www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com](http://www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com) to purchase at least 50% of my electricity from clean technologies such as wind or hydro electric power to reduce toxic emissions, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and help Sherman to earn free solar panels for public buildings. For every 100 households that sign up, Sherman will earn one solar panel.
- Use energy efficient lighting. I will replace at least 3 light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) wherever possible to save money and energy. CFL light bulbs use 75% less energy and last ten times longer than incandescent light bulbs.
- Shop “green” at the grocery store by saying no to both paper and plastic bags. I will bring reusable bags when I shop. I will try to buy organic and/or locally grown foods. I will shop local whenever possible. I will buy products with minimal packaging.
- Promote re-use by holding a tag sale or donating to neighbors, Good Will, Salvation Army, or local thrift shops rather than throwing away unwanted items.
- Donate my used toner and ink cartridges by depositing them in the donation box at Mallory Town Hall.
- Participate in pilot recycling programs by Terra Cycle by:
  - donating my clean #5 plastic wide mouth yogurt cups (6 oz. and 32 oz.). Terra Cycle will recycle these into plant pots and donate 2 and 5 cents per cup, depending on the size, to The Sherman School. Clean cups may be brought to Mallory Town Hall or sent in with a student to The Sherman School.
  - donating my cookie wrappers for recycling (Oreo, Chips Ahoy, Fig Newtons, Mallomars, etc.). TerraCycle will recycle the wrappers and donate 2 cents per wrapper to The Sherman School. All sizes are accepted. Wrappers may be dropped off at Mallory Town Hall or sent in with a student to The Sherman School.
- Plant 1 tree. Trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, create oxygen, provide shade, muffle sound, and keep Sherman beautiful.
- Drive smarter and drive less. I will try to carpool, walk, bike, use public transportation (when possible) to minimize car trips for shopping and errands. I will limit air travel to essential trips or consider buying an energy efficient hybrid car.
- Invest less in a green grassy lawn by planting low maintenance ground covers and reducing my use of pesticides and garden chemicals. I will plant a buffer garden on my waterfront property.
- Sign up with Cool Sentry Program to reduce my air conditioning energy demand during electric emergencies and get paid for doing it. This program is for homeowners and businesses with central air conditioning. <http://www.coolsentry.com/homeowner/information.php>

- Minimize energy use. By raking rather than blowing leaves. I will choose energy star appliances when buying new. I will set my thermostat to no lower than 78 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and no higher than 68 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. I will turn off the lights when I leave a room. I will hang laundry in the sun to dry whenever possible. I will turn off electronics such as the TV or computer by flipping the power strip or surge protector.
- Conserve water. I will reduce my showers by one minute. I will run my dishwasher and washing machine only when full, and only on weekends or after 7 p.m. when system energy use is less. I will turn the water off while brushing my teeth, and I will repair my leaky faucets and running toilets.
- Compost. I will try to reduce the garbage I produce by 20% by composting my leaves, yard waste, and food waste in my back yard. At the same time, I will be making my own nutrient rich organic fertilizer for my lawn and garden.
- Recycle more. I will recycle all plastic bottles with a neck (or with #1 PET or #2 HDPE stamped on the container), metal and glass food and beverage containers, cardboard, magazines, and newspapers. I will buy products with recycled content to close the recycling loop.
- Reduce my purchase of plastic water bottles by drinking tap water from a reusable water bottle. I will get my morning coffee in a refillable coffee mug.
- Reuse both sides of every piece of paper. Make scratch paper for the office by using the other side of discarded non-confidential papers. Take my lunch to work or school in reusable containers, not plastic bags. Use the Sunday comics or reusable bags for gift wrapping. Give away stuff that others can use; get free stuff that you can use at [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org). Adopt a pet from a local shelter when in the market for a pet.
- Borrow books, audiobooks, and dvds from the Sherman Library. If you must buy, buy used. Donate when you are finished for others to enjoy.
- Avoid the purchase and use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) items. Styrofoam gives off over 900 hazardous chemicals when burned, and will take over 500 years to decompose.
- Make my own resolution:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Give myself a pat on the back because I'm making a difference!

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(list as you want it to appear on the map e.g., Jane Smith, The Smith Family, Unlisted)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please turn my house green on the Sherman Green Community Map on the town website.
- Please list my name \_\_\_\_\_ on Sherman's Green Hall of Fame with other residents who have pledged to do our share to make a difference.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Forms may be dropped off at Town Hall, or mailed to P.O. Box 39, Sherman CT 06784, or faxed to 860-355-6943, or sent in to The Sherman School via a student. Please call or email Ruth Byrnes with any questions: 860-355-1139 [rbyrnes@townofshermanct.org](mailto:rbyrnes@townofshermanct.org)*