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| **Monday, August 27, 2012 120827-1**  **In this Issue:**   * **Metro Monthly Green Tips: August 2012** |
| **Metro Monthly Green Tips: August 2012**  Green tips are often applicable both at work and at home and this month focuses on items that apply to all buildings. Going green all at once is too much for almost anyone to accomplish. Instead, try adding a few more ideas each month, or pick one from a past months green tips. You'll be surprised at how many changes you can make in just a year.   1. Check Your Faucets - A minor leak in a single pipe joint or faucet can result in up to three gallons of wasted water each day. This hurts the environment, as well as your pocketbook. Some leaks can be easily corrected with a pipe wrench and a few minutes of your time. If the leak is more complex, you may need to consult a plumber to make sure the job is done correctly and completely. If you want to further your water-saving efforts, there are special faucets and shower heads that are designed to conserve water. Many of these items can be installed by using a few simple tools and are very reasonably priced. To find out more and view products, please click [here](http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/index.html). 2. Swap Out Appliances for ENERGY STAR Brands - A house that is fully equipped with ENERGY STAR appliances will run on about 30% less energy than a house using non ENERGY STAR appliances. Not only will you save energy, but you will also save hundreds of dollars over the course of a year. Most appliances can be easily installed by you without needing to pay outside help. To read more on ENERGY STAR appliances and read reviews through ENERGY STAR’s website, please click [here](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_find_es_products). 3. Fix Drafty Windows and Doors - Having leaky windows can increase your home energy bills by as much as 30 percent. In offices, typically windows are fixed and do not have leakage problems, but at home, operable windows are often drafty do to missing seals or caulking. To test and see if your windows and doors are drafty, you can use a match, smoke stick or even a standard incense stick, once it is lit, hold it close to the frame of the window or door. If you see the smoke moving from the window, you will know you have a draft. Window and door retrofit kits or eco-friendly caulking is available at your neighborhood home improvement store to seal the windows. Even easier you can use a draft snake or an old towel to seal the bottom of doors.   By implementing this month’s green tips into your office and your home you’ll help in building a more sustainable and future! | |
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