



Going Green Initiative

1. Efficient Lighting

The US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy teamed up to create an energy savings calculator to determine how much electricity one could save by switching from inefficient incandescent bulbs to environmentally friendly compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs.

According to the US government, the Chamber can save more than \$2,100 in energy costs over the life of the CFL's. We will help to reduce air pollution by removing 32,000 pounds of CO₂ from our atmosphere. That is like removing about three cars from the roadways for a year or similar to planting about 4 acres of forests!

2. Power Down

According to greenpeace.org, turning off our computers at night can save 1,000 kWh per year per computer. Turning off each power strip that our computers and peripherals plug into can save an additional 200 kWh per year per power strip.

By powering down our three computer systems and power strips at night, we can save up to 3,600 kWh per year, or more than \$300 in total electricity costs! In addition to saving money, it will also reduce air pollution by saving more than 5,700 pounds of CO₂ from being released into our atmosphere.

3. Recycle, Recycle, Recycle

The National Recycling Coalition estimates that recycling just one aluminum can will save enough energy to power a television for three hours! Americans also throw away enough paper that we could build a wall of paper from New York to Seattle that is 12 feet tall. Recycling just a 3-foot stack of newspapers will save one tree.

The Chamber will institute an internal recycling program. Included will be all paper products including newspapers and cardboard materials, plastics, aluminum cans and electronic devices that the Chamber has consumed.

4. Go Paperless

Because we wastefully consume too much paper, the Chamber will institute a paperless program as often as possible. With today's technology, and using a computer scanner the Chamber already owns, we will reduce the amount of paper we consume and store in unnecessary situations. While certain official and signed original documents will continue to be stored in paper format, we will scan and save multiple digital copies of all other materials when possible.

5. Cool it: Change the Thermostat

The website www.stopglobalwarming.org estimates that lowering a thermostat by 2 degrees in the winter and raising it by 2 degrees in the summer, Americans can reduce 2,000 pounds of CO₂ from being released into the air and save nearly \$100 per year.

The Chamber will lower our thermostat by at least 2 degrees for the remainder of the winter and will raise the thermostat by at least two degrees this summer. The Chamber office already has a programmable thermostat in place that turns off our HVAC system at night and on the weekends in order to save money and reduce CO₂ emissions.

6. Going Green by Adding Green Plants

Several studies have shown results that adding certain green plants indoors can help reduce types of indoor air pollution such as Trichloroethylene (TCE), Benzene and Formaldehyde (www.zone10.com/tech/NASA/Fyh.htm).

The Chamber has always had some live green plants for decoration. We will ensure that each room has at least one of the recommended green plants to create a well-decorated, cleaner and "greener" office.

7. Keep Arkansas as The Natural State – Plant Trees

As trees grow, they help stop global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and the soil and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. While they are fighting global warming, trees provide many benefits to all of us, every day. They provide cooling shade, block cold winter winds, attract birds and wildlife, purify our air, prevent soil erosion, clean our water and add grace and beauty to our homes and communities.

Every Arbor Day in Arkansas, which is celebrated on the third Monday of March, the Chamber will plant one tree for Cross County, one tree for each of our incorporated cities and one tree for each of our school districts. We will work with all relevant government entities and utility companies to ensure that we plant trees native to our area, in the proper places and in order for our local environment to receive the maximum benefit.

8. Encouraging Others...

We will encourage our Chamber members, schools and local governmental units to follow the Chamber's lead in promoting a cleaner environment in Cross County for our children and grandchildren. We will assist these groups with potential grant opportunities whenever possible.

Working to help grow the Natural State's economy. Thinking globally. Going green.