

# Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

## Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair  
 Jane Hankins - Vice Chair  
 Beth McClain - Secretary  
 Ken Strait - Liaison to  
 Land Use Board  
 Burt Doremus  
 Marion Carl  
 Cheryl Lalancette

## Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Newsletters are available on the township website and the township Facebook page. Printed copies available in the municipal building.

Resources used for this newsletter include:

*Recycle this Book*, Dan Gutman,  
 Ed. [www.RANDOMHOUSE.COM/KIDS](http://www.RANDOMHOUSE.COM/KIDS)

## What Does It Mean to be Green?

This month's newsletter is taking a look at what we can do to protect the environment. Some suggestions on how you can make a difference in your community, your home, your school, and your world are included in this article and the ideas are aimed at young people as well as adults. You've heard about global warming, energy crisis, changing climate, intense weather patterns and all kinds of other environmental issues. There are solutions and we can all do our part to help by making small but significant changes in our daily lives.

### Part One - In Your Home

- The total yearly waste produced by US households would fill enough garbage trucks to line up and reach halfway to the moon
- Each time you take a shower, you use about 9 gallons of water
- If each person replaced just one lightbulb in their home with an Energy Saving compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) the total energy saved could light more than 2.5 million homes for a year

### What you can do:

Think about ways to make your home more environmentally friendly. Recycle, use natural cleaning products. Even *small* changes make a *big* difference.

Have a family meeting to discuss things you do in your home that harm the environment and try to come up with ways you can reasonably change them.

Every time you leave the house, turn off the lights, the TV, the computer - anything electronic that doesn't need to be running; unplug anything that doesn't need to be running all day especially when on vacation. Saving a little bit of electricity now will go a long way for the future!

Plant a family garden - fruits, vegetables, flowers. Create a pollinator garden.

Try composting your food scraps to fertilize your garden.

Learn more about Arbor Day - check out [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) Arbor Day is this month!!

Register at [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) and do your shopping online which is easier and faster & eliminates catalogs to dispose of.

Check out [The Green Guide](http://www.thegreenguide.com) ([www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com)) - A resource from National Geographic for people striving toward a healthy and greener lifestyle using practical, everyday, environmentally responsible and health-minded choices and actions.

Next month check out things kids can do in their schools to help make others aware of environmental issues.

### How Does your Garden Grow? Some Springtime Tips

In addition to providing delicious, healthy food, gardening can offer an opportunity for family-friendly outdoor activities. Gardening activities have been proven to help alleviate stress and anxiety, allowing individuals to find calm and quiet. Whether your garden is a large outdoor space with lots of plantings or a small space with a few large containers, the choices of what to grow are up to you.



### Spring Gardening Tips and Chores

Start seeds of vegetables and annuals indoors 6-8 weeks before you plan to set them out. ...

Plan your garden - what will you plant, what's new, what perennials do you have

Prepare the soil...

Prune shrubs and vines... Now is the time to prune roses, (some) shrubs and perennial vines. ...

Prepare ornamental beds ...

Divide perennials ...

Get ready for spring veggies ...

Clean and freshen outdoor furniture ...

Maintain and organize tools ...

Prepare containers for spring planting ...

and

*Don't forget to check out the development of the Pollinator Garden at the Hopewell Senior Center.*



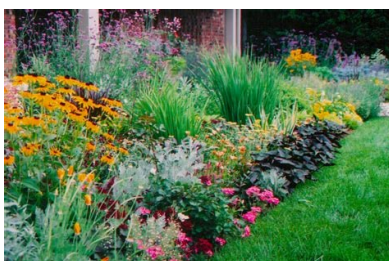
Don't forget to attend the Private Well Testing Outreach Program presented by the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission and the NJ Department of Health

April 12, 2023  
7PM

Hopewell Township  
Municipal Building

The presentation will include an overview of private well testing findings for gross alpha and lead as well as water treatment recommendations.

Q & A session to follow



Be a Friend to Pollinators

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/pollinators](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/pollinators)