

# Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

## Going Green

### Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair

Jane Hankins - Vice Chair

Beth McClain - Secretary

Ken Strait - Liaison to  
Land Use Board

Burt Doremus

Marion Carll

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.



For ideas and suggestions visit

<https://wehavekids.com/parenting/26-ways-your-kids-can-help-protect-the-environment>

The average American's annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions is 20 metric tons. With multi-person households, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gasses escaping into our atmosphere is exponential. There are many simple changes you can make in your home to reduce your carbon footprint from tree planting to switching to all LED light bulbs. See ways that you and your kids can practice going Green on the following pages.

# What Does It Mean to be Green?

Last month we started a series on what it means to be green and how to help save the earth by acting responsibly to stop the further rise of Climate Change. This month we are focusing on helping kids become more aware of issues that affect changes in the environment and listing ideas to help them become environmentally involved in that process.

## Part Two - Helping Kids become Environmentally Aware

It's never too early to start young. Taken from an innovative kids' environmental education program, here is a list of ways that children can help protect the environment. By starting them young, you will help them develop these methods and ways as they grow into adults who continue to protect the environment. See each item on the list below, these are not the only ways you can help but a start:

**Inspire** awareness of environmental issues

**Precycle** - Try to reduce waste before it becomes waste by buying in bulk, only buying what you need, favoring less packaging, using things longer and using them up, sharing resources, etc. Initiating discussions about purchases before they're made (like at the grocery store, for example) is a great way to get kids interested in the idea of precycling.

**Recycle with purpose** - Use both sides of paper and make use of scrap paper for projects. Pick up and properly dispose of trash and recyclables. Start a compost bin and use as fertilizer for your garden.

**Conserve** by -

Taking shorter showers

Using non-toxic cleaners

Using foams and aerosols based on compressed air

Using only biodegradable products

Conserve hot water. Turn down the thermostat by 2 degrees

Replace bulbs with energy-saving light bulbs

Practice doing more with less

**Encourage** kids to learn to turn things off when not in use

**Teach** kids the importance of car maintenance and gas usage, carpool more often, reduce the use of petroleum

**Show** your children how you care for your home - Explain the importance of house insulation. Teach them how to properly use the thermostat. Use more energy-effective appliances. Properly dispose of hazardous household waste.

**Talk** to your kids about pesticides and other garden chemicals. Plant a tree or a garden together.

**Volunteer** for tree planting programs, road or stream clean-ups, join local environmental groups, get involved in your community.

## Learn your Carbon Footprint

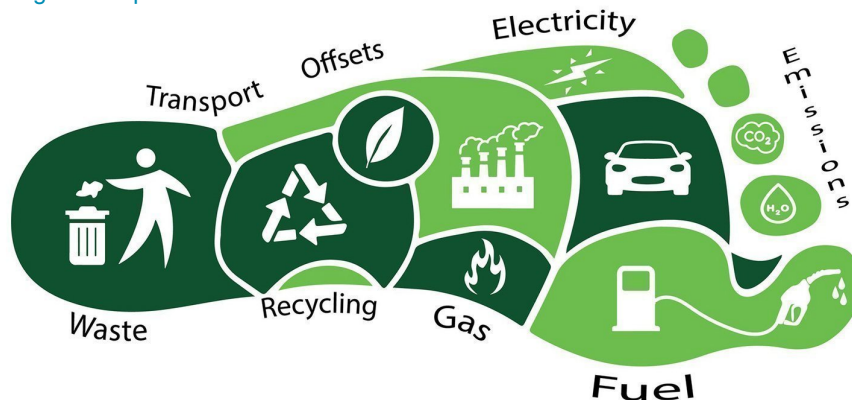
Many of our daily activities - such as using electricity, driving a car, or disposing of waste - cause greenhouse gas emissions. Together these emissions make up a household's carbon footprint.

The first step in knowing how to reduce your carbon footprint is learning what yours is.

The calculator estimates your footprint in three areas: home energy, transportation and waste. Everyone's carbon footprint is different depending on their location, habits, and personal choices.

Use the Household Carbon Footprint Calculator to get started

Carbon Footprint Calculator | Climate Change | US EPA @ [www3.epa.gov](http://www3.epa.gov)



# Your HTEC Working for You

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission works for all residents of the township. Each year we focus on projects that need to be done within Hopewell that both help the environment and enrich the community.

This year one of the projects is to create a pollinator garden which will be located behind the Senior Center. The garden is in phase one now - which is preparing the site. Later, plantings will be placed in the area to attract a variety of pollinators.



Preparing the pollinator garden bed



Another project includes upgrading trail maps for existing trails and creating maps for new trails.

HTEC is also working with the Littoral Society to

remove wire fencing and invasive plants from the native grass areas at Barretts Run Park.



We frequently could use "another pair of hands". If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering from time to time let us know. Call the municipal office (856-455-1230, ext 118) or email the township clerk [clerk@hopewelltp-nj.com](mailto:clerk@hopewelltp-nj.com) to volunteer.

If you have any environmental concerns or want to learn more about what the HTEC does, join us at the monthly meetings which are open to the public. Feel free to ask questions. Contact us through the township website.



Rebecca Schwartz, from NJDOH Well Water Testing Presentation



HTEC Public Meeting



**NEED TO KNOW**

# New Program Allows Customers to Mail-In Electronics to Best Buy for Recycling



**Best Buy is starting new program where customers can mail-in their old electronics to be properly recycled.**

Apr 06, 2023

**Best Buy has just launched a new program that makes it easier for customers to recycle their old electronics. A wide range of electronics are accepted through the new Recycle-by-Mail service at the retailer.**

According to Best Buy, the electronics retailer has already recycled 2.7 billion pounds of electronics and appliances to date, but the new program will allow Best Buy to continue this sustainability effort outside of its stores.

Customers will be able to order a prepaid Best Buy Technology Recycling Box and then can ship off their old, unwanted electronics for recycling. Best Buy's next move will be to give the tech a "second life" or the company will recycle it in an environmentally friendly way.

"We continue to build on our commitment to be there for our customers throughout the entire lifecycle of their products by making recycling simple and convenient," says Tim Dunn, Best Buy's head of environmental sustainability. "Sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do and this new service is another step we are taking to protect the planet today and for future generations."

# RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS

Hopewell Township residents may recycle unwanted electronics\* at the following location:

**Hopewell/Greenwich Townships Convenience Center 539 Trench Road, Hopewell  
856.455.1230 x119**

**\*ACCEPTED ITEMS**

computer monitors, computer towers, laptops, TVs (projection, wooden console, tube, flat screen), cell phones, copiers, printers, VCRs, DVD players, radios, speakers (not wooden), computer keyboards, computer mouse, networking peripherals, boxes, cables, battery backup systems, and stereos (not wooden consoles)

This program is administered by Cumberland County Improvement Authority  
2 North High Street, Millville, NJ 08332  
Tel (856) 825-3700 Fax (856) 825-8121 [www.ccia-net.com](http://www.ccia-net.com)

