



Make the Pittsburgh Region Even Cooler in JUNE 2010:

Full loads mean full pockets

- **Always run full loads in the washer and dishwasher.**

This month, stop making more work for yourself- and your appliances. Run your dishwasher and washing machine with full loads. About 80 percent of the energy used in running your dishwasher comes from heating the water; 90 percent for the laundry washer. This means that the simplest way to cut your energy use is to reduce your hot water use. Wait until these appliances are full to run them. Doing this will not only save you up to \$60 a year, but will also prevent 864 pounds of heat-trapping gases from going into the air.

- **Insulate your hot water pipes**

Insulating your hot water pipes is a very simple and inexpensive way to save money, energy, and some global warming pollution. Pipe insulation is available at home improvement stores and only costs 3-5 dollars a stip. Insulate wherever hot water pipes are exposed and the first three feet of pipe exiting your water heater. Hot water transported from your water heater to its appliance will stay warmer, allowing you to turn down your thermostat (See April's action). Insulation also helps bring hot water to your taps and showers faster so less is wasted while you wait for your water flow to heat up.

Insulating your hot water pipes reduces the average household's carbon dioxide emissions by 52 pounds per year. You can also save 3-5 percent on the water heating portion of your energy bill.

- **Install a tankless water heater or Install a rain barrel**

By installing one **tankless water heater**, you will prevent 397 pounds of heat-trapping gases from going into the air each year – that's a total of 7,937 pounds over the lifetime of the water heater.

Using a **rain barrel** is an excellent way to take action against one of Pittsburgh's worst environmental problems – sewer overload during rainstorms, from our Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) system, which dumps raw sewage into our rivers. Because the water doesn't have to be treated rain barrels help prevent 337 pounds of heat-trapping gases each year.

- **Buy a Rain Barrel-** Pittsburghers can buy a rain barrel as a part of the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association's Rain Barrel Initiative. Prices and conditions for getting a rain barrel vary depending on where you live; visit the website (<http://www.ninemilerun.org/programs/rainbarrel/index.htm>) or call them at 412-371-8779 ext. 16.
- **Sign up for a PRC (Pennsylvania Resources Council) Rain Barrel Workshop** Attend a rain barrel workshop and return home equipped with the knowledge and hardware needed (not the 55-gal. drum) to assemble and install a rain barrel. Visit the website (www.prc.org/community_watershed.html) for a schedule of classes and other details.