



**Town of Oakville** | **What YOU Can Do to Help Oakville's Environment**





# What you can do



## Reduce your impact on natural areas

- Remove invasive species widely found in Oakville such as Dog Strangling Vine and Garlic Mustard. Contact Conservation Halton for more information or see [www.conservationhalton.on.ca/ShowCategory.cfm?subCatID=1114](http://www.conservationhalton.on.ca/ShowCategory.cfm?subCatID=1114)
- Think twice before cutting a tree down. Trees offer shade in the summer and protection from winter winds. Check out the town's Private Tree By-law at [www.oakville.ca/residents/trees-protection-removal.html](http://www.oakville.ca/residents/trees-protection-removal.html) if you're thinking of cutting down a tree greater than 15cm diameter.
- When draining pool water, ensure chemicals have not been added for at least 10 days prior.
- Don't wash cars on driveways.
- Choose household products with little or no phosphate.
- In the winter, use either low or no chloride ice melt.
- Don't dump hazardous waste into sewers or drains. See [www.halton.ca/waste](http://www.halton.ca/waste) to find out proper disposal locations.
- Visit <http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/> for tips and tools to reducing your greenhouse gas emissions.

## Support healthy neighbourhoods

- Consider implementing a compost program not only at your home, but at your school or work.
- Grow your own garden for a personal supply of fresh fruits, herbs, and vegetables.
- Participate in one of the town's beautification programs or clean up events.
- Enjoy Oakville's trails. Get out for a hike with

family and friends. For great walking resources in the town, visit <http://www.halton.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=12410> or contact the town for a copy of the Cycle and Trails guide.

- Sign up for an outdoor recreation course or activity. The town's Recreation and Culture department offers a catalogue of programs and events twice a year. You can also check it out online at [www.oakville.ca/culturerec/index.html](http://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/index.html).
- Consider adopting a trail or park. Help keep our parks and trails looking great and get outside for some fresh air and exercise. Visit [www.oakville.ca/culturerec/adopt-a-programs.html](http://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/adopt-a-programs.html)
- Add "green" features to your home renovating.

## Reduce your resource consumption

- Choose washable and refillable containers with little packaging for meals away from home.
- Purchase a stainless steel water bottle in place of disposable plastic bottles.
- Contact Halton Region for recycling and composting bins.
- It is estimated that 17% of a typical garbage bag in Halton is material that could go in the Blue Box. Take the time to separate your garbage into recyclables, compost and garbage.
- Bring your own re-usable bags when shopping.
- Consider belongings you no longer use - can you refurbish, donate or repair them?
- Set your thermostat to 25°C or higher during the summer, and 20°C or lower in the winter.
- Take advantage of the Watt Not Waste Not program to reduce energy, offered through Oakville's libraries. Visit [www.oakville.ca/environment/energy-conservation.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/energy-conservation.html) to learn more.

# What you can do, cont.



- Purchase a portion of your energy through green sources. Visit [www.oakvillehydro.com](http://www.oakvillehydro.com) or [www.bullfrogpower.com](http://www.bullfrogpower.com)
- Consider adding solar energy or geothermal technologies to your home.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED or fluorescent light bulbs to increase energy efficiency and save electricity costs.
- Only use dishwashers and laundry machines when they are full and at night to reduce water waste and save on energy costs.
- Incorporate xeriscaping in your garden (plants and landscaping that don't require much water).
- Install low flow shower heads and toilets.
- When making purchases, choose "green" whenever possible.

## Improve your transportation habits

- Consider biking or walking to work, school, shop or for short errands.
- Choose to live in a walkable neighbourhood with transit access.
- Start a car sharing group in your neighbourhood.
- Ensure the sidewalk in front of your house is cleared of snow in all seasons for pedestrians.
- Take public transportation when possible.
- Purchase a monthly transit pass. You never have to worry about change for the bus and it will encourage you to use the bus more often.
- If you commute, look at the options offered with the new PRESTO fare card. Take advantage

of seamless inter-regional travel. Visit [www.prestocard.ca](http://www.prestocard.ca)

- Avoid using drive thrus and don't start your car until you're ready to go.
- Turn the car off when picking people up from school or work.
- Keep your car running efficiently to save gas and prevent pollution, keep your tires properly inflated, do regular tune-ups.
- If you're looking into purchasing a vehicle consider an electric, hybrid or fuel efficient vehicle.

## Get involved in the community

- Get involved in the implementation of Oakville's community sustainability plan. Learn more at [www.oakville.ca/environment/integrated-community-sustainability-plan.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/integrated-community-sustainability-plan.html)
- Support and attend environmental events. Sign up for the Halton Environmental Network's weekly newsletter at <http://haltonenvironment.com/?cat=273>
- Volunteer at a local school.
- Discuss environmental issues with your family and work together to come up with ways to reduce your ecological footprint.
- Encourage your children to join your school's environmental group or help start one.

# Resources

## Air quality and climate

- Halton Region is one of the pilot communities to roll out the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI). To learn more about this program and other information on air quality in Oakville, visit [www.halton.ca/airquality](http://www.halton.ca/airquality)
- For a list of anti-idling resources and information visit <http://idling.gc.ca>
- For information on the town's Health Protection Air Quality By-law, visit [www.oakville.ca/environment/health-protection-air-quality.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/health-protection-air-quality.html)

## Energy

- Interested in learning more about solar or wondering if solar is right for your home? To learn more about renewable energy in Oakville, visit [www.oakville.ca/environment/green-power.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/green-power.html)

## Healthy neighbourhoods

- For detailed information on Oakville's trails, including maps, photographs and a historical perspective, visit [www.oakville.ca/culturerec/trails.html](http://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/trails.html) or pick up a copy of Oakville's trail and cycle guide at town facilities.
- For information on Halton Conservation's *Halton Hikes: 50 Great Trails* visit [www.haltonhikes.ca](http://www.haltonhikes.ca)
- Visit one of Halton's many farmers markets and support Halton farmers. Visit [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca) for listings.

## Natural areas

- For information on Halton's conservation areas and waterways, visit Conservation Halton [www.conservationhalton.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.ca) or call 905-336-1158.
- Want to know more about the town's wildlife and biodiversity? Visit [www.oakville.ca/environment/wildlife-biodiversity.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/wildlife-biodiversity.html)
- The Halton Natural Areas Inventory (2006) was completed in partnership with Halton Conservation Authority and local field naturalist clubs. A copy of the report is available through Conservation Halton for a fee.
- For a listing of local naturalist clubs, visit [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)

## Transportation

- Need a bus schedule or know where to buy tickets? Visit Oakville Transit at [www.oakvilletransit.ca](http://www.oakvilletransit.ca)

## Waste

- Do you want to drop off a used item or recycle something but don't know where to go? Visit [www.halton.ca/waste](http://www.halton.ca/waste) for an easy to use directory.

## Water

- Halton Region provides resources to help you conserve water. Visit [www.halton.ca/toiletrebate](http://www.halton.ca/toiletrebate) to learn about low flush toilet rebates or [www.halton.ca/WaterConservation](http://www.halton.ca/WaterConservation) to access their information on water efficiency.

## General

- Oakvillegreen is an Oakville community association that has been working to protect our environment, promote sustainable planning and make sure that new development pays for itself. Visit [www.oakvillegreen.com](http://www.oakvillegreen.com) for more.
- For a listing of local environmental organizations, businesses and activities, the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) produces the Halton Enviro Guide: <http://haltonenvironment.com>
- For fact sheets on environmental topics, visit the town's website at For general environmental information regarding the town, pick up a copy of the Environmental Stewardship Guide in the Environmental Policy department at Town Hall or at one of our many public outreach events or online at [www.oakville.ca/environment/environmental-stewardship.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/environmental-stewardship.html)

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Town of Oakville  
1225 Trafalgar Road  
Oakville ON L6H 0H3  
T: 905-845-6601 TTY: 905-338-4200  
[www.oakville.ca](http://www.oakville.ca)