



Make the Pittsburgh Region Even Cooler in April 2010: The Water Savers Competition is here!

Join the contest by registering your
organization at gogreensavewater.com



- **Drink more water – just not bottled water.**

Bottled water costs up to 2000 times more than tap water. And blind taste tests have shown that most people prefer tap water. Tap water is also often cleaner (and has to meet stricter standards) than bottled water. So replace your bottled water habit with a reusable container filled with tap water. At events and at home, offer pitchers of water.

Bottles are bad for the environment. Making the plastic bottle, filtering the water, and transporting the bottled water to the store releases about 1.28 pounds of heat-trapping gases *per bottle*. Think of what you can save this year in global warming pollution and in money.

Drinking tap water also means you will save water. According to bottledwaterblues.com, it takes three times as much water to make one bottle of water than is actually contained in the bottle.

- **Set your water heater to 120° F**

Most people have never adjusted the temperature settings on their water heater which often come from the factory set to 140° F. This not only wastes energy and money, it is also dangerous, especially for children and the elderly.

If each household in Pittsburgh turned its water heater down from 140° F to 120° F, the energy saved would prevent nearly 20,000 tons of heat-trapping gases per year from being released into the atmosphere. That would be equivalent to not burning 95 railcars full of coal. Turning your water heater down by 20 degrees also saves 6 - 10 percent in water heating energy costs.

Turning the water heater down can also save water when you shower because you will have to add less cold water to get a comfortable water temperature.

- **Plant one or more drought-resistant native trees**

Trees can improve your property value, increase the beauty of your home, and keep your home cool in the summer yet let more light and warmth inside in the winter. By letting a tree seedling grow for 10 years you will have reduced about 86 pounds of global warming pollution. And the benefits don't stop there – according to Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest, trees with developed canopies have the ability to absorb the first half-inch of rainfall from a storm. Having stormwater absorbed into the ground, means a lower risk of flooding, and less pollution running into our rivers and streams.

So go plant a tree – these *Black and Gold* partners can help.

- ✓ Take a Tree Tender course from Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest: <http://www.pittsburghforest.org/TreeTenderCourse>
- ✓ Learn all about tree care from Tree Vitalize: <http://www.treevitalize.net/TreeCare.aspx>.

- **Track Your Progress**

Go to our website (www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.