



Chicago's NeoCon Seminar on Sustainable Kitchens; tips to making a difference

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Some homeowners just don't know how they can make a difference in the reversal of our endangered planet. After all, they are just one person and can't afford to make large changes in their homes that would seem to create any dramatic impact.

What is missing, however, is the idea that one small change; one action taken toward sustainability multiplied by thousands, if not millions, will make a large difference. In fact, some action is better than no action. And if each and every one of us takes that one small action our numbers alone will bring about a change in Chicago alone.

Let's start with your kitchen. Did you know that using your dishwasher saves a lot of energy and water versus hand washing? In fact, Matthew Kubik an architect and associate professor at Indiana and Purdue Universities, who is focused on energy research and consumption in homes, spoke recently at [Chicago's 2010 NeoCon World Trade Show](#) to interior designers about sustainable kitchens. His research shows that hand washing wastes twice the amount of water; not to mention the energy to heat the water. The advantages to using your dishwasher when it's an [Energy Star](#) qualified model will save as much as 5000 gallons of water over a year! That saves enough water to wash two loads of laundry each week; providing of course it's also an [Energy Star washer](#). In addition, you will save as much as \$40.00 yearly on your utility bill.

Now you may already know that. But how does that impact the environment? What does your small action do? According to the [US EPA and US DOE](#) energy savings calculator during the life cycle of your dishwasher you will save 740 kWh in electricity, reduce air pollution by 1,140 lbs of CO₂. That is equivalent to 0.09 cars removed from the road for one year and 0.12 acres of forest planted.

Let's total that up times a million Chicago homeowners like you; that's 740 million kWh saved and over 1 billion lbs of CO₂ no longer emitted into the environment. An equivalent to 90,000 cars off the road for one year and 120,000 acres of trees planted.

A simple action like this, taken by each of us, will make a big difference.

Be sure to catch the next article from the NeoCon seminar on sustainable kitchens and on how your simple and small actions can not only save you money but save 40% to 70% in energy and create a better environment.



One home can make a difference.
Svilen Milev

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