

## USU Extension Leading the Way in Sustainability

To celebrate Earth Day on April 22, there are ways you can start applying sustainable practices right now. Consider the following:

### **Reduce**

- Use less water by turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Use less paper by making double-sided copies or going electronic with bills/online bill pay.

### **Reuse**

- Purchase BPA-free plastic containers for beverages and food products.
- Purchase an artificial Christmas tree.
- Donate clothing, furniture, and other household items to charity.

### **Repurpose (also known as "Upcycle")**

- Crochet a grocery bag with plarn ("yarn" made from plastic bags).
- Create faux metal art with toilet paper tubes.

### **Recycle**

- Donate recyclable items like plastics, paper, metal, and electronics so that they can be remanufactured into "new" items.

With the launch of a new sustainability initiative and web resource, Utah State University Extension is the first Extension program in the nation to be "talking" sustainability at a statewide level. The website (<http://extension.usu.edu/sustainability>) is user friendly and focuses on five main topics related to sustainability: land, air, water, energy, and food. Educational materials in each area broaden perspectives and provide useful information for consumers and businesses. In addition to the new website, you can also interact with the USU Extension Sustainability movement via social media by reading the blog (<http://usuextensionsustainability.blogspot.com/>), following on Twitter (@USUExtensionSus) and Pinterest (usuextensionsustain), or liking the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UsuExtensionSustainability>). We invite you to join the conversation today!

Source: Mills, R. (2012). What it means to GO GREEN: Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle. USU Extension fact sheet. Retrieved online:  
[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/FC\\_Energy2012-01pr.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/FC_Energy2012-01pr.pdf)

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