



**Start with  
one hour...  
change  
each day.**

Earth Hour is a place to start – for one night, your restaurant will be a part of a world wide effort. By participating and turning off the lights, it is a first step to saving money and reducing your environmental impact. These 10 steps for restaurant sustainability can help you implement steps to save money and connect with green conscious consumers.

# Earth Hour Atlanta's 10 Tips to Restaurant Sustainability

## **1. Turn Off**

Turn off interior & exterior lights and cooking hoods when not in use. Install motion detectors in storerooms, offices and restrooms. Set lights on timers.

## **2. Fix Air & Water Leaks**

Repair leaky faucets and toilets. Stop air leaks by caulking and insulating around leaky windows and doors. Install energy curtains in freezer rooms.

## **3. Replace Lighting**

Replace incandescents with longer lasting CFL light bulbs or LED lights. Replace traditional exit signs with LED exit lighting.

## **4. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.**

Follow the 3 R's of sustainability: reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce waste. Reuse furniture, flooring. Recycle paper, plastics, glass and aluminum.

## **5. Buy Local**

Conserve fuel, lower emissions and support your local economy by buying foods from local providers. Local is generally considered within 200 miles of your venue.

## **6. Use Less Water**

Serve customers water upon request. Run dishwashers, washing machines only when full. Install low-flow toilets, waterless urinals, tankless water heaters.

## **7. Train and Inform**

Train employees on energy saving procedures and on the importance of energy conservation and water use. Don't be afraid to brag! Tell customers about your energy efforts.

## **8. Clean and Maintain**

Clean equipment runs more efficiently and saves money! Regularly dust and clean appliances, top to bottom. Perform routine preventive maintenance on HVAC, plumbing, appliances, major equipment.

## **9. Remodel or Build Green**

Use low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) or no-VOC paints, recycled flooring and managed forest wood. Install a reflective roof, sun lights and energy-efficient windows.

## **10. Look for the ENERGY STAR Label**

Purchase appliances, electronics and other EPA-tested equipment that carries the ENERGY STAR label.

*SOURCES: National Restaurant Association, Green Plate, Green Food Service Alliance.*