

During the summer of 2006 Time magazine published the Style and Design Issue. The cover, "Green Living, Is Sustainability the New Luxury?" We are now in early 2007 and articles have titles like, "Green Goes Mainstream." We can all go green. But, what does this really mean?

Al Gore addresses major climate changes in his award winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." This film addresses major shifts in the atmosphere of the earth due to green house gasses and other factors. These are big picture issues and you may wonder how one family or house can make a difference.

Consider going green, keeping the green in your wallet. There are many things you and your family can do that will make a difference. Say, you take the time to super insulate your attic and seal up your home, eliminating a great deal of heat loss and gain. You are not only reducing your own utility costs, but reducing the over all load on the system. Now imagine if everyone in Campbell County did the same thing. How much do you think one county can reduce the load on the electrical grid thus reducing the load on the power plants?

Are you looking at purchasing new appliances? Purchase Energy Star rated appliances and save. They will help reduce your monthly bills and you can take the tax credit. This choice is a win for your family and the world. Better yet, are you building a new house? The whole house can be Energy Star rated.

Divide the word green into two categories: those things which save energy and those things produced using recycled materials and renewable resources. A tank-less hot water heater reduces energy loads while bamboo flooring is a renewable resource.

Going green can be a consideration in every decision you make. Make a commitment from this point forward to research the energy saving options available and to purchase eco-friendly products. If we all do our small part, we can leave the world healthier and more stable for our children.