



## New Fairfield Going Green Pledge

[NFGoingGreen.com](http://NFGoingGreen.com)

I pledge to make **at least three** environmentally-responsible choices over the next year to preserve, protect, and promote a sustainable future. **I pledge to:**

**Use energy efficient lighting.** I'll replace at least 3 light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) wherever possible in my home and office to save me money and energy because CFL light bulbs use 75% less energy and last ten times longer than incandescent bulbs.

**Use clean electricity.** I'll sign up at [www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com](http://www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com) to purchase at least 50% of my electricity from clean technologies such as wind or hydro electric power to reduce toxic emissions, foster energy independence, and help the town earn free solar panels for public buildings.

**Use energy efficient transportation.** I will carpool, take the train, walk when possible, minimize car trips for shopping and errands, keep my car tires inflated to the proper pressure, empty unnecessary items from my car, limit my air travel to essential trips, or consider buying an energy efficient hybrid car.

**Compost** my leaves, or yard waste, and/or my food waste in my own back yard to reduce the garbage I produce by as much as 20% and make my own nutrient rich organic fertilizer for my lawn or garden.

**Shop "green" in the grocery store** by saying no to both paper and plastic and bringing re-usable bags when I shop, by buying locally-grown and/or organic foods or clothes made from natural fabrics or by purchasing products with minimal-packaging.

**Make my own resolution: (see back for suggestions)**  
I will \_\_\_\_\_

**Recycle more.** I'll recycle all plastic bottles with a neck, cardboard, magazines, newspapers, metal and glass food and beverage containers at [curbside](#) or at the [New Fairfield Drop Off Center](#) along with my electronics. I'll buy recycled products to close the recycling loop.

**Conserve water.** I'll cut my showers shorter by at least 1 minute and run my dishwasher and washing machine only when full, and only on weekends or after 6 pm in the evening when system energy use is less. I won't let water run while brushing my teeth, and I'll repair my leaky faucets and running toilets.

**Minimize energy use** by raking rather than blowing leaves, choosing energy star appliances when buying new, or by signing up for the [CoolSentry](#) program for my electric air conditioning use. I'll set my thermostat to no less than 78 in the summer and no more than 68 in the winter or use a programmable thermostat.

**Invest less in a grassy lawn** by planting ground cover, reducing my use of pesticides, by using fertilizer and weed killer on my remaining grass no more than twice a year or by planting a buffer garden on my waterfront property.

**Promote re-use** by holding a tag sale, participating in Junk in a Trunk or Granny's Treasures or donating to the New Fairfield Thrift Shop, rather than throwing away unwanted items. I'll donate my used eye glasses to the New Fairfield Lion's Club.

**Make my own resolution: (see back for suggestions)**  
I will \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE FILL OUT, SIGN AND RETURN TO:

New Fairfield Going Green; 4 Brush Hill Rd; N.F, CT 06812; or to the box in the NFHS Main Office or in the NF Free Public Library; or complete the Pledge on line at [NFGoingGreen.com](http://NFGoingGreen.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn my home green on the town map on the New Fairfield Going Green website.

Please list my name on the NF Going Green website with other residents who have pledged to "go green".

### New Fairfield Going Green Mission

New Fairfield Going Green is a program of the New Fairfield Youth Commission, supported by our local municipal officials, to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink to protect the environment. **Visit our website at [NFGoingGreen.com](http://NFGoingGreen.com) for further information and links to the underlined or blue lettered words.**

## OTHER IDEAS FOR RESOLUTIONS

### Reduce

1. Reduce my purchase of plastic water bottles by drinking tap water from a reusable water bottle.
2. Get my morning coffee in a refillable coffee mug.
3. Avoid the purchase or use of any Styrofoam item because today's Styrofoam will still be here 500 years from now.
4. Sign up to lessen junk mail coming to my home at [newdream.org/junkmail/index.php](http://newdream.org/junkmail/index.php).

### Reuse

5. Use both sides of every piece of paper.
6. Take my lunch to work or school in reusable containers, not plastic bags.
7. Reuse a pet! Adopt from the New Fairfield/Sherman Animal Welfare when in the market for a pet.
8. Use the Sunday comics, the newspaper or reusable bags for gift wrapping.
9. Donate used books to and buy used books from the New Fairfield Friends of the Library.
10. Give away stuff that others can use; get free stuff that you can use at [freecycle.org/group/United%20States/Connecticut/Danbury](http://freecycle.org/group/United%20States/Connecticut/Danbury)

### Recycle

11. Use only rechargeable batteries and recycle them when they wear out at the [New Fairfield Drop Off Center](#).
12. Use natural pine or cedar or recycled newspaper litter for my cat's litter box.
13. Recycle used motor oil, auto batteries, leaves, brush, all types of electronics, and antifreeze at the [New Fairfield Drop Off Center](#).

### Rethink

#### 14. Energy Use

- a. Insulate my water heater and set the temperature to 120 degrees or less.
- b. Work at home and eliminate my commute at least one day a month.
- c. Caulk cracks in my home, weather strip the doors and windows in my home or increase my home's insulation.

#### 15. Conservation of Natural Resources

- a. Plant a tree or contribute to tree planting in the Amazon at [Reforest the Tropics](#).
- b. Become a member of the [New Fairfield Land Trust](#).
- c. Sign up with the Selectmen's office (312-5600) to Adopt-A-Road in New Fairfield.

#### 16. Pollution Prevention

- a. Take my household hazardous waste, including used CFLs, to either the May or September household hazardous waste collection sponsored by the Town, at no charge! See dates, times and locations at the HRRRA website at [http://hrra.org/current\\_interest.php](http://hrra.org/current_interest.php).
- b. Replace hazardous household cleaning products with hazard-free or organic products. See how at the CT DEP's [Household Alternatives for Reducing Toxic Products in Your Home](#).
- c. Buy white toilet tissue, paper towels and other paper products.
- d. Properly maintain my septic system and have it cleaned as recommended by the New Fairfield Health Department based on usage and family size.
- e. Adopt a storm drain near my home, monitor its functioning, and call the Town or State for maintenance when the storm drain is clogged or not operating properly.

#### 17. My Own Ideas About How to Conserve Natural Resources and Preserve Our Planet

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_