



# Getting Started with a Neighborhood Conservation Club

Everybody can agree that saving resources makes good sense, especially as we witness record breaking gasoline and diesel prices, winter heating costs that only increase, and a record drought in Montana. Part of the reason to conserve energy is to avert climate change. The scientific consensus points undeniably to our energy consuming habits as the primary cause of global climate change. In this corner of the planet, climate change means more drought, more wildfires, and more beetle infestations. With our neighbors, we can stop it.

There is room for just about all of us to conserve energy and resources in every portion of our lifestyle, from how we heat our homes, to what food we eat. Neighborhood Conservation Clubs (NCCs) are a forum for you to take action to conserve resources.

## WHY JOIN A CLUB?

The Neighborhood Conservation Clubs can accomplish two things:

- Help each other to significantly cut our energy and water consumption.
- Build stronger neighborhoods and communities throughout Montana.

By working with our neighbors we'll be able to take advantage of each other's expertise, tools and knowledge.

An important reason for working in small groups is to hold each other accountable. Frankly, a little peer pressure and a little friendly competition among and between clubs will go a long way towards helping all of us be more efficient energy users.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

As a member of a NCC, you will participate in work parties and meetings of your Club. Through your NCC you will be provided with resources and activity suggestions for a variety of energy conservation subjects. For example, a unit on landscaping for energy and water efficiency will include activities such as collectively buying a shared push lawn mower, building a laundry line in your yard, planting a shade tree on the south side of your home, or "xeriscaping" your lawn by replacing water intensive plants with native plants and shrubs. As a member of a NCC you might pitch in a few dollars for the push mower, or you might get help putting up a well-built laundry line.

### Some Upcoming NCC Projects

*Planting shade trees*

*Performing energy audits*

*Insulating attics*

*Creating carpool networks*

*Advocating for bike lanes*

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CLUB FACILITATORS?

Each Club will be guided by a Club Facilitator. The Club Facilitator will be expected to convene meetings and work parties, keep the meetings in order and on task, and act as a resource point-person for the Club. To be a Club Facilitator, you should have a basic knowledge of energy efficiency and a willingness to set agendas and organize work parties. As a Club Facilitator you will get to take part in a Facilitators' training and you will receive or take part in a professional home energy audit.

For more energy-saving tips, visit the NCC website at [www.savemobile.org](http://www.savemobile.org)

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A joint effort of the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), The S.A.V.E. Foundation, and Saturn Resource Management

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## SO, HOW MUCH CAN YOUR CLUB SAVE?

Start by figuring out how much you use in an average year. How much diesel, gasoline, natural gas, electricity and water? The NCC tool *Analyzing Your Energy Consumption* guides you through the process of evaluating your consumption. Once you know how much you use, make a pledge with your Club to cut your resource consumption by 10, 25, 50 percent or more! Then get started, and keep track of how you're doing.

## DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS...

You can either start your own NCC or join one that's in your neighborhood. The easiest way to get connected or to start a new group is to contact Ben Brouwer at AERO:

Phone: 443-7272

Email: [bbrouwer@aeromt.org](mailto:bbrouwer@aeromt.org).

You can also sign up or find NCC Conservation Tip Sheets by visiting the NCC site at:

[www.savemobile.org](http://www.savemobile.org).

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