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## My GREEN Cranford E-News - March 2009



### Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR Results

The Cranford Environmental Commission has been encouraging citizens to take the **Energy Star Pledge** to take simple steps to help the environment. As of March 2, Cranford is at 135% of our goal. Based on all the pledges taken, the citizens of Cranford will save:

700,788 lbs. of Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
 \$51,881  
 431,704 kWh  
 321,259,904 BTUs

If you have not take the pledge, please join us and [take the pledge today](#).

### Quick Tip

The average household spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills — nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. Heating or cooling your house when you are not home can waste fuel and money.

### The Solution

Installing a programmable thermostat is one of the simplest things you can do to save energy, money and help fight global

### From the Desk of Nelson Dittmar

We have been busy adding new information to our web site. So, if you have not visited the site recently, please do. For example, on the Event & News page, there is announcement of the Earth Hour on March 28th at 8:30 PM. World Wildlife Fund is asking individuals, businesses, governments, and organizations around the world to turn off their lights for one hour -- **Earth Hour** -- to make a global statement of concern about climate change and to demonstrate commitment to finding solutions. In 2008, over 50 million people, including an estimated 36 million in the U.S., representing over 400 cities on all seven continents turned out their lights in the largest climate event of all time. This year, Earth Hour aims to reach millions of people in over 1000 cities worldwide. Sign up and be counted!

I would like to urge you again to take the ENERGY STAR Change the World Pledge. There are a dozen or so actions that you can take to help the environment, and, at the same time, save money. We have included the results of this campaign in this newsletter (see side bar). As you see, we have had a great response so far. So, please go to <http://www.energystarcranford.2ya.com/>.

Thanks for joining us and please tell you friends to visit My Green Cranford and sign up for the newsletter.

Nelson Dittmar

Chair

### Recycle Your Old Cell Phones for Gorilla Conservation

Your old cell phone can help save the mountain gorillas. Cell phones contain a number of hazardous substances that can impact the environment when discarded. But many of them also have been manufactured with a metallic ore called coltan, a major source of which exists in the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to the eastern lowland (Grauer) gorilla subspecies. This has resulted in the destruction, through mining, of some critical gorilla habitat, which of course also affects the entire

warming. Homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings.

Visit [ENERGY STAR](#) for more information and start saving right away!

### How much electricity are you using?

If you're looking to better manage your own electricity consumption, consider buying a home energy monitor. The Energy Detective monitor is available now for \$150. Visit [www.theenergydetective.com](http://www.theenergydetective.com).

### Free Nature Photography Workshop: April 25th

On Saturday, April 25th, the Cranford Environmental Commission along with the Cranford Millburn Camera Club will present a Nature Photography Workshop. This event will be open to all Cranford residents and will help kick off our first Nature Photography Contest.

The workshop will feature members of the Cranford Millburn Camera Club and will offer tips on how to take better photos with a focus on photographing nature.

More details on the contest and how to register for the workshop will be available soon.

ecosystem in which they live.

Recycling unused cell phones can help protect the gorillas, since reuse of the phones results in the need for fewer new ones, which reduces the need for coltan mining. Recycling also keeps other hazardous substances out of our environment. Now, you can also help the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International with their gorilla protection program, by donating your old cell phones to Zoo Atlanta. Zoo Atlanta is home to the U.S. administrative headquarters of the Fossey Fund, and has partnered with a company called Eco-Cell to recycle cell phones. For each phone sent to Zoo Atlanta for recycling, a donation will be made to the Fossey Fund to assist with gorilla protection in Africa. Cell phones can be mailed to: The Cell Phone Recycling Program; Zoo Atlanta; 800 Cherokee Ave; Atlanta, GA 30315. Any kind of cell phone will be accepted. For more information, go to: [www.zooatlanta.org/conservation\\_recycle\\_cell.htm](http://www.zooatlanta.org/conservation_recycle_cell.htm)

### NYC Cracks Down on Idling

In an effort cut down on the noxious pollutants emitted from idling vehicles on its streets every year, New York City recently passed a law making vehicle idling of more than 60 seconds punishable by a stiff fine. While New York and other major cities have had laws against idling for more than three minutes on the books for years, lax enforcement has meant that violators usually get away with it for much longer periods. As a result, school kids, office workers, and apartment dwellers have had little choice but to close their windows, which can be especially dangerous on stiflingly hot summer days when pollution levels are highest and cool breezes through open windows are most needed. As part of the new law, the city will beef up enforcement of illegal idling and is readying a public awareness campaign to get the message out via radio, bus stops and billboards.

[Read More](#)

**The Cranford Environmental Commission is encouraging all residents to turn off their engines whenever they are waiting: at a drive-through window, at the post office, when stalled in traffic for long periods, while gassing their cars, while picking up passengers or any time they will be stopped for longer than ten seconds. Local merchants should also ask vendors to turn off their truck engines while unloading.**

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