

# Celebrating Earth Day: Fifty Shades of Green (continued)

This Wednesday was Earth Day and everyone is getting in the spirit, so here's my contribution — a continuation of my "Fifty Shades of Green"

column begun on Feb. 12 and continued on Feb. 26. You can read those installments online at [www.JimSmithColumns.com](http://www.JimSmithColumns.com).

Here are some of my favorites from the first 26 "shades" published on those dates:

- #2—Recycle Styrofoam
- #4—Get an energy audit of your home.
- #5—Install a hot water recirculation line.

#9—Replace your Kentucky Bluegrass lawn with Bella Bluegrass or buffalo grass. Save water & mowing.

#10—Make your next new car an electric car. (I recommend the Chevy Volt and the Tesla Model S.)

#14—Install sun tunnels/Solatubes in your home to reduce lighting needs.

#19—Reuse your kitchen trash bags instead of discarding them.

#21—Get a Brita water pitcher and break the single-use water bottle habit.

*Picking up where I left off, here are some more:*

27) Turn down your hot water heater from scalding to your comfortable bathing temperature.

Don't worry about your water being hot enough for the dishwasher. Most dishwashers heat the

water they use from hot to scalding.

28) Go vegetarian. Animal agriculture is a huge consumer of the earth's resources compared to growing vegetables. It's also a major source of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

29) Use evaporative cooling in your house. It uses a lot less electricity, and the increased humidity is good for your skin and furniture. (Evaporative cooling only works in dry climates like ours.)

30) Reuse your waste water. A friend of mine says she washes her vegetables over a plastic bucket in her kitchen sink so the water doesn't go down the drain. She then waters her unpicked vegetables or flowers with the same water!

31) Get an electric lawn mower. I loved my Black & Decker cordless electric mower. It's quiet, non-polluting and economical. And it always starts! While you're at it, buy an electric weed eater too! You'll be glad you did. Say good-bye to small engine fueling, repair and failure to start!

32) Get a bicycle! Summer is coming and you will benefit both economically and in health by making more

trips by bicycle and fewer by car..

33) Get 20,000-mile oil changes from Excelerated Oil. I discovered this company many years ago. They use super-refined oil and special filters to give you 20,000 miles between oil changes. I didn't believe it either, but trust me, it's true. Call Dan at (720) 284-2945. I use his oil in Rita's Lexus and in our company moving truck, cutting waste oil production by 75%.

34) Use "GreenEarth" dry cleaning. Regular dry cleaning chemicals are a major pollutant. Patronize a dry cleaner like Martinizing at 64th & Indiana (303-422-0176), which uses the GreenEarth cleaning technology. They also pick up and deliver (free) on a weekly schedule which I love. No more trips to the dry cleaners!

That's all I have room for this week. Look for another installment at a future date. Happy Earth Day, and thanks for caring.

## REAL ESTATE TODAY



By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

## Recent Transactions Show Accuracy of Zillow Estimates

Last week I wrote about the wide variation in valuations among Zillow, the county assessor, and other websites. Below are several transactions which closed this week. Compare their sold price which Zillow's "zestimate."

Address	Sold Price	Zestimate
5106 S. Drew Ct.	\$368,000	\$413,203
9027 W. 75th Way	\$369,000	\$335,501
1235 Teller St.	\$227,500	\$196,583
9221 W. 93rd Ave.	\$274,000	\$254,835
1930 Zinnia St.	\$391,000	\$439,804
13217 W. 84th Dr.	\$491,000	\$521,529
1790 S. Upham St.	\$238,000	\$240,778
7074 Newland St.	\$292,000	\$242,172
12855 W. Stanford Ave	\$201,000	\$251,432
1007 Nob Hill Rd.	\$799,000	\$853,313

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## This Week's Featured New Listing

### This Home Has Views of Denver & Continental Divide

If you like being deep in the mountains yet close to "civilization," this home 15 miles from downtown Golden might be perfect for you! The address is 1055 Raptor Point Road, Golden. Every room in this spacious 3-bedroom, 4-bath home has a spectacular view of the Continental Divide to the West or the city lights to the East! It has an open floor plan and passive solar design with a roof suitable for solar PV. It has radiant floor heating and hardwood floors. Built on 20 acres inside a gated, 5-home subdivision at the end of Robinson Hill Road, the property is regularly visited by elk, turkey, deer, birds of prey and other wildlife. The property also has a well permit approved for outdoor water use and domestic animals. For a private



showing, call Chuck Brown, 303-885-7855. As with all Golden Real Estate listings, the buyer gets free use of our moving truck and free moving boxes. No agent? We provide free labor and gas!



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