

Fifty Shades of Green: Big & Small Ways That You Can 'Go Green'

If, like the EcoBrokers of Golden Real Estate, you want to "go green" but don't know where to start, here's a menu of things, big and small, that you can decide to do, if you're not already doing them. I'm happy to elaborate on any of them — just ask!

1) Recycle! With today's "single stream" recycling, it's not tedious to recycle instead of sending everything to the landfill. Paper, glass, plastics, cardboard — throw it all together. If your condo building doesn't offer recycling, go to the next board meeting and demand it!

2) Bring your clean, white polystyrene (aka "Styrofoam") to the Styro-

foam Corral behind Golden Real Estate's office on South Golden Road. (No food containers or packing peanuts, please! Remove tape and other attachments, too.)

3) Be water wise. Turn off the water while soaping up, then turn it on to rinse.

4) Get an energy audit for as little as \$120, so you can find out where you can reduce your home's energy consumption. Ask me or Xcel for vendors.

5) Ask your plumber to install a hot water recirculation line. You'll get quicker hot water at each faucet and pay less for it.
6) Install solar panels or buy into a solar community garden. This can cost little or nothing out of pocket.

7) Change the filter on your forced air furnace regularly to make it more efficient. Use a console humidifier.

8) Install LED light bulbs throughout your house. A 12-Watt LED emits as much light as 60-Watt incandescent bulb. And, unlike CFL's, LED bulbs are instantly bright, too!

9) Replace your Kentucky Bluegrass with buffalo grass or Bella Bluegrass. You will save hundreds of dollars per year on water and also on lawn mowing!

10) Buy an electric car while you can still earn \$13,500 in tax credits. The Chevy Volt is as big and comfortable as a Camry and costs less after those tax credits. My Volt is averaging 235 miles per gallon!

11) Visit the solar & sustainable homes which are on the Golden Solar Tour the first Saturday each

October and learn from each of them! You can tour many of previous years' homes, including my own, at www.YouTube.com/GoldenSolarTour.

12) Buy locally grown produce at farmers' markets and organic supermarkets.

13) Caulk around your window frames — that's where most of the cold air was entering my house.

14) Install sun tunnels ("Solatubes") where practical. It will brighten the dark areas of your home and reduce lighting costs. (~\$500 each)

15) When your TV needs replacing, get an LED model. Their electric consumption is about \$10 per year.

16) When any appliance needs replacing, look for "Energy Star" models. You'll save on electricity!

17) Turn down the thermostat and wear a sweater. (To be continued)

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By **JIM SMITH**, Realtor®

9th Annual Colorado Environmental Film Festival Is Coming, Feb. 19-21

Next Thursday through Saturday is the one film festival focused on environmental issues, and it happens right here in Jefferson County at Golden's American Mountaineering Center.

You can see the schedule and purchase tickets at www.CEFF.net, or just show up. There will be two theaters showing films during each time slot. See a fantastic trailer at CEFF's website above.

Each year this festival attracts filmmakers, activists and adventurers

from around the world to share and honor the best environmental films, screening 45 shorts, features and other films from nearly 100 submissions.

Friday the 20th is "community day" and all films are free (donations accepted), so there's no reason not to come.

Golden Real Estate is proud to be a co-sponsor and will be among numerous exhibitors at the "Eco Expo" on Saturday the 21st, 10am to 7pm. Come say hello!

At left is a still from an "ultra short" being screened at this year's festival.

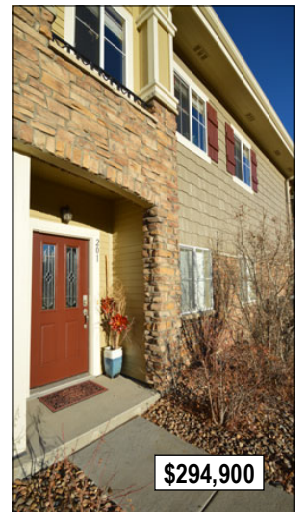


"Prescription Strength" — A hilarious and poignant satire about a current day issue affecting us all... (no spoilers!) revealed in the perfect post-modern capsule, a prescription drug commercial.

This Week's Featured New Listing

West Wood Villas Condo Shines

This 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo at **6212 Kilmer Loop #201**, has everything most buyers look for. Originally a model unit, it has \$30,000 worth of upgrades, including granite counters and stainless steel appliances. It is a one-story unit, one flight up from the entrance shown here. A covered deck offers great sunset views, and you'll enjoy the lake views, too! Built in 2006, it has 1,650 square feet of space, including an open floor plan and study. It has central air conditioning, gas fireplace and a 2-car garage. Nearby are walking trails, lakes and open space, as well as the shopping center, anchored by King Soopers and Kohls, at 64th & McIntyre. Take a video tour at www.ArvidaCondo.info, then call listing agent **Carrie Lovingier** at **303-907-1278** for a private showing.



\$294,900



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