

Fresh Coffee, Fresh Air

Coffee makers: We all have them, and many of us use them daily. These handy gadgets quietly use a surprising amount of energy, drawing 900 to 1200 Watts while making the coffee, and 100-200W while keeping the coffee warm. Many households and businesses run these machines for hours at a time to keep coffee ready to go. Imagine leaving a room full of lights on: your coffee maker warmer uses about the same power! And remember: the biggest contribution we make to smog and global warming is through our electricity usage.



The Simple Solution:

Once the coffee is ready, pour it into a thermal carafe and turn the machine off. If you need a new coffee maker, some manufacturers such as Sunbeam have models that include a thermal carafe instead of a coffeepot, and the coffee maker turns off automatically once the coffee is brewed.

The Cost:

\$10-20 for a thermal carafe, or \$55 for the coffee maker.

The Payback:

You will save about \$5- \$10 per year. The Bonus: Better tasting coffee that hasn't been simmering for hours.

The Environmental Bonus:

If one of every 10 households and businesses in Caledon used a thermal carafe instead of simmering their coffee, we would save enough power to run 10-12 households, and prevent 117 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide emissions, as well as significant Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide and Mercury pollution.

What if you're a tea drinker?

If you want to make only one small cup of tea, the most efficient way is to use a small electric kettle. If you don't have one, put your cup in the microwave for several minutes to boil the water. If your kettle is the type that boils water on a stove burner, you are farther ahead to use the microwave, even for several cups of water. If you have to boil more than 1 cup of water, it's more than twice as efficient to use an electric kettle, even a full-sized one, than a microwave or stovetop burner.

Citizens for a Clean Caledon, the Caledon Countryside Alliance, and the Clean Air Clean Energy Project welcome new members. If you would like to help us do something about air pollution, or if you would like more information about this or other topics in the Caledon Clean Air Clean Energy program, you can reach us at greenenergy@woodrising.com or 519-927-0548.

You can read all the articles in this series at <http://www.woodrising.com/cca/stepup.htm>



Step Up To Kyoto. Future generations will thank-you a tonne.