1. Use an LED light bulb. **LED uses about 80% less electricity** than an incandescent bulb. You may not personally see the cost savings at your dorm but know that you are taking part in lowering greenhouse gas emissions, reducing our need for coal-produced electricity, and helping slow down climate change. Compare energy use and environmental impact of light bulbs [here](#).

2. Buy **Energy Star** appliances – particularly your computer monitor and TV which are big energy-users. Energy Star uses about 30% less energy than conventional appliances and monitors! Saving energy lowers everyone’s costs on campus—if less is paid in utility bills then more is paid for salaries and your tuition could be lower.

3. Put your rechargeable items on a **plug strip** and turn off all chargers at once when you leave the room. Your chargers still use power even if gadget isn’t plugged in! Also remember to unplug your TV when not in use – put TV, DVR, Roku, etc. on a plug strip and **click them all off at once**! Use a [Belkin Conserve Power Switch](#) and click off individual electronics with one click.

4. Bring your own reusable water bottle or coffee cup with you. NMSU has **13 refill stations** on campus with more coming regularly (look for updates on OoS homepage). Using your Einstein Bagel coffee cup saves you $1 each time you buy coffee! News Flash! Las Cruces water is perfectly good for you; in fact it has more minerals than the bottled water you buy. And there is no guarantee that bottled water is even filtered. Green Aggies **lower waste** in the landfill.

5. Turn off your lights if you are going to be gone from your room for 15 minutes or longer. **Develop the habit** of turning them off. While you’re at it, turn off the lights in your classrooms too!

6. Conventional cotton sheets require 1.5 lbs of agricultural chemicals. **Buy organic** to keep chemicals from being used and released into the environment. Chemicals from non-organic sheets seep into your body through your skin cells as you sleep at night. Those chemicals are endocrine disruptors!

7. Turn your heat down in the winter and up in the summer when you leave your room. The savings really add up and a small space recovers quickly from the change in temperature.

8. If you have an appliance that you can’t take with you when you move out at end of the semester, call Habitat for Humanity or Goodwill for a free pickup. Be a Green Aggie: **Reuse! Reduce! Recycle!**

9. About 80% of the energy used for washing clothes in a conventional washing machine is used to heat the water. Reduce your energy usage by using cold water to wash your clothes. Clothing doesn’t need hot water to get clean. Also, use an **eco-friendly laundry detergent** like Method or Seventh Generation. Green detergents don’t contain ingredients that harm you or the environment when they go down the drain. Look for biodegradable, non-petroleum based, phosphate-free products.

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**Green Your Dorm or Home**

Here are nine easy ways to change your impact to Mother Earth while at NMSU. Changing your habits isn’t easy so start now.

- Bring your own cup and To Go bottle
- Use a ‘To Go’ box from Taos Café
- Turn it OFF - use a plug strip to turn all gadgets off at once
- Buy local! • NO Styrofoam!
- Lower your waste: just say “no thank you” to plastic bags and bottles

**Go Aggies! Go Green!**