



**Saskatchewan  
Prairie Conservation  
Action Plan**

*Only about 17% of Saskatchewan's native prairie grasslands remain. These remaining grasslands are threatened by urban expansion, cultivation and industrial development. Most of Saskatchewan's species at risk are grassland species that require native grasslands to survive. Most find habitat on land that is managed for livestock. To thrive, both livestock and wildlife need healthy grasslands and clean water. As such, they commonly co-exist on private ranches and community pastures.*

*The Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) aims to educate students about grassland habitat and how it can be managed to benefit wildlife including species at risk. We hope this tip sheet will provide you with practical ways to contribute to maintaining healthy prairie environment as a resident of Saskatchewan.*

**Fast Facts!**

**Energy Facts**

- Recycling one aluminium can saves enough money to run a TV for 3 hours.

**Recycling conserves non-renewable resources which are extracted from the earth. For example, plastics are made from petroleum products. The less plastic we produce, the less native prairie needs to be disturbed by petroleum development.**

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 75% less electricity than regular light bulbs and last years longer. Replacing them can save 200 kilowatt hours per year, which translates into roughly \$20 per bulb.

**In Saskatchewan much of our energy comes from coal and hydro electricity. The more energy we conserve, the less coal needs to be mined from beneath our native prairie and the less native prairie needs to be flooded by dams which produce electricity.**

**Food Facts**

A study conducted on food production in North America estimated that an average family meal travels 2,400 km from field to table, roughly the same driving distance from Regina to Toronto! Buying locally produced produce and meat provides many benefits to your family and the environment such as:

- Helping to reduce green house gases related to transportation

- Supporting local farmers and ranchers and building stronger communities
- Conserving valuable farmland and wildlife habitat
- Providing your family with tasty and nutrient rich fresh food

**Water Facts**

- Canadians use, on average, 390 litres of water per day, about twice as much as the average European.
- A tap that drips once every second wastes ~10,000 litres of water per year.
- A five-minute shower with a standard showerhead uses 100 litres of water; a five-minute shower with a low-flow showerhead uses 35 litres of water!
- About 97% of the earth's water is salt water.
- If all of the earth's water could fit into a gallon jug, only a tablespoon of it (1%) would be fresh water.

**Imagine then how little of that total supply we have on the Saskatchewan prairies.**

**Waste Facts**

- Canadians generate about 1.7 kg of waste per person per day. With a population of an estimated 1,000,000 people, Saskatchewan residents are putting over 1,700,000 kg of waste into our landfills daily.

**Recycling and waste minimization reduces the amount of native prairie lost to landfill sites.**

**Conservation Tips that Saves Money and Resources!**

**Save energy**

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Use the energy saver option or shortest cycle necessary on appliances.
- Line-dry your clothes.
- Turn the temperature on your water heater down

**Save water**

- Turn off the taps while brushing your teeth and washing dishes.
- Have a short shower instead of a bath.
- Turn taps off tightly to avoid dripping.
- Instead of letting the tap run until the water gets cold, keep a jug of water in the refrigerator.

- Wait until you have a full load to run the dishwasher or washing machine.
- Adjust the water level on your washing machine and use only as much water as necessary.
- Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to reduce water use.
- Use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses on your lawn.

**Reduce waste**

- Use local recycling program.
- Reuse materials instead of discarding them. Be creative! Glass jars and plastic containers can be used to store bulk food and odds and ends
- Re-use plastic grocery bags at the store or use them as garbage bags. Buy or make cloth shopping bags that can be reused.

- Reuse items such as wrapping paper, gift boxes and bags, string, rubber bands, and twist ties.
  - Instead of discarding old or malfunctioning items, have them refurbished, repaired or have a garage sale!
  - Donate items such as clothing, toys, and furniture to social service or religious groups.
  - Compost kitchen and yard clipping.
- Source: The Green Lane: Environment Canada's World Wide Web Site*  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/docs/fact/en/p2home.cfm>



***It's In Your Hands!***

## ***Let's Get Green!***

### **Backyard & Balcony Habitat**

Urban habitat provides very important habitat for migrating and local birds. Habitat consists of four elements: food, shelter, water and space. As natural habitat is lost to urban expansion it is important to provide and maintain areas for wildlife. One way of achieving this is to create a wildlife garden in your yard or on your balcony. Here are a few simple things that can provide habitat for wildlife:

- **Food** - Grow native species of plants instead of ornamental varieties. Wildlife feeds on the seeds, berries, sap, insects and nectar of these plants for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.
- **Shelter** - Wildlife needs shelter to rest, raise their young and escape from predators. Shrubs, rock piles, dead trees and nest boxes all provide shelter for wildlife.
- **Water** - Install birdbaths, small ponds, streams or shallow dishes to provide wildlife with a clean source of water.
- **Space** - Create a space that is safe from cats and dogs, traffic, pesticides and other human disturbances.

## **Want to Learn More? Check out these websites!**

### **Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearing House**

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/cppic/en/index.cfm>

*Provides information for youth, educators and the home owner on how to go green and buy green.*

### **Earth Day Canada**

<http://www.earthday.ca/pub/home.php>

### **Green School**

<http://www.seedsfoundation.ca/index.html>

*Encourage students and schools to take environmental action.*

### **Saskatchewan Eco Network**

<http://www.econet.sk.ca/>

### **SaskEnergy: Saving Energy**

<http://www.saskenergy.com/saving/energy/default.asp>

### **Evergreen**

<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/hg/hg-resources.html>

*Learn about backyard naturalization!*

### **Evergreen's On-line Native Plant Database**

<http://www.evergreen.ca/nativeplants>

*Educational and interactive project with information about native plants in Canada.*

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### **Tip!**

***Encourage volunteer community associations to develop recycling programs.***