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GRAND FAREWELL

The Artful Shopper can help you toast the new year in style

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LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Make everyday purchases greener

ONLINE • ClickGreener Inc., a new Canadian company, has launched ClickGreener.com, a web portal that empowers people to make their ordinary purchases greener and help raise funding for the environment. Best of all, it's at no extra cost to the consumer. Each year, online shopping generates millions of dollars in referral fees, says Owen Ward, president of ClickGreener.

"We decided to harness this power and use it to help the environment, by donating just over half of our referral fees to environmental non-profits," Ward says.

■ **Why this can work:** Visitors to ClickGreener.com will find many of North America's leading online retailers of electronics, books, DVDs, clothing and more.

■ **Modus operandi:** By selecting their retailer of choice through ClickGreener, visitors will be connected to that retailer's online store where they can complete their purchase as usual. For every purchase made this way, ClickGreener donates 51 per cent of the referral fee from that purchase to leading non-profit environmental organizations including WWF Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Tree Canada and Carbonfund.org.

■ **Potential:** If only one per cent of online purchases were made through ClickGreener, about \$1 million would be raised every year.

■ **Added value:** ClickGreener gives visitors access to promotional offers from many of its retailers, including deals not available to the general public. It also identifies green products from its participating retailers to help people maximize their positive impact on the environment. clickgreener.com

— CanWest News Service

Don't leave clues that you're away

TIPS • Going home for the holidays can mean leaving your primary residence vacant. The people at Weiser Lock have a few tips to keep your home and your family safer:

■ Leave a car parked in the driveway to give the appearance the home is occupied.

■ Weiser advises against tagging your luggage with your home address, and recommends using an office address or cell number instead.

■ Give a trusted neighbour a key to check your home while you're away.

■ Don't announce your absence on your answering machine.

■ Keep your house well-lit. Intruders hate to be seen. Weiser says good perimeter lighting creates a psychological barrier around your home.

■ Forced entry is the access of choice for burglars. Protect your entries with deadbolts.

■ The best locks in the world are useless if they're not locked. Weiser says that in half of all break-ins, all the burglars had to do to get inside was turn the doorknob. Always lock your doors, even when you're home.

— CanWest News Service

ECO-RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN LIVE WITH IN



Reduce greenhouse gases, preserve the environment and save money with 24 easy ways to go green in 2008

YVONNE JEFFERY
CALGARY HERALD

Saving the environment single-handedly? OK, not an option — our planet's in

need of some serious TLC. But you can do your part by making a few eco-resolutions to go greener around the house as 2008 unfolds. The bonus? Reducing and reusing actually










ALSO SEE

■ Experts' resolutions

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saves you money, too. Get started Jan. 1 with

the easy tips in our chart below — and check out the Sunday Life At Home section for a look at your home's carbon footprint (the carbon emissions that each room produces) and how to reduce it.

	HOME MAINTENANCE	SHOPPING	HOME ORGANIZATION
GO GREEN	 <p>Replace or clean your furnace filter every one to three months to keep your furnace operating efficiently (which reduces gas consumption) and to improve safety.</p>	 <p>Take your own reusable bags on shopping trips.</p>	 <p>Declutter your closet: take anything you're not likely to wear or use to either a consignment shop or a charitable organization.</p>
EVEN GREENER	<p>Replace light bulbs as they burn out with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last up to 10 times longer but consume up to 75 per cent less electricity.</p>	 <p>Choose local and organic produce whenever possible.</p>	<p>Set up a recycling system at your home if you don't already have one — either pay for recycling pickup or take it to your nearest city drop-off point.</p>
EVEN GREENER	<p>Go greener (and safer) with an annual furnace servicing from a qualified professional.</p>	<p>Choose items that come with minimal packaging or packaging made from easily recyclable materials (cardboard egg cartons instead of plastic, for example).</p>	<p>Organize a clothes-trading session with friends or family to swap decent items that you don't wear.</p>
	CONSERVING WATER	CLEANING	OUTSIDE THE HOUSE
GO GREEN	 <p>Keep showers to a 5- to 10-minute maximum and shut off the water while you're brushing your teeth.</p>	 <p>Use cold water wash cycles in your washing machine except for sheets and towels. Use cold water rinse cycles for everything, and wait for full loads before running the machine.</p>	 <p>Take your own reusable mug to the coffee shop or cafeteria instead of using non-reusable paper or styrofoam cups.</p>
EVEN GREENER	 <p>Install dams or bags in high-volume toilets to save water with every flush.</p>	<p>Try environmentally friendly cleaning solutions. A thick paste of baking soda and water works wonders on all kinds of dirt, including coffee and tea stains in mugs and stuck-on food in pans.</p>	 <p>Even better, make it a family trip.</p>
	<p>Install low-flow showerheads and water-saving faucet aerators.</p>	<p>Hang one load of laundry a week instead of drying it in the dryer: you'll save electricity and add a little humidity to your home's air.</p>	<p>Pack your own lunch for work using cloth napkins and reusable containers (instead of plastic wrap and individual-sized packaging).</p>
	<p>Replace your old, water-guzzling toilet with a new low- or even dual-flush model.</p>	<p>Buy products from Seventh Generation, Method's Free & Clear line and/or local producers of environmentally friendly cleaning solutions (such as smallplanet.ca and claudiaschoices.ca).</p>	

Seriously, he really gets into it.

Sam loves real estate and it shows.

In 2007 he sold 100 million dollars worth of property and his clients celebrated big time. He knows the market, he's responsive and he's available to work with you across all price ranges. If you are making a move in 2008, Sam will get into it for you with exciting results.

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