

GREENWorks

Ideas for a Cleaner Environment

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My Friend, A Change We Can All Make is “Blowing in the Wind”

Join in National Hanging Out Day on April 19

When you think of hanging out laundry to dry, what do you picture in your head? Maybe a woman reaching up for the line with colorful clothes while laughing children dart in and out of the orderly lines of bed linens? It sounds nostalgic, but not many of us use a clothes line anymore. Our busy lives and materialistic misperceptions of the “gotta have bigger better appliances” have changed our laundry practices over time so now we automatically toss our clothes from the washer into the electric clothes dryer. Safe to say, no one considers the cost of this, in many cases, daily activity.

Using a clothesline or drying rack instead of a dryer can save the average household more than a hundred dollars every year in energy costs. On average, among household appliances, only the refrigerator uses more electricity than the dryer. Dryers account for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity used by a household; washing with cold water *and* air-drying can reduce your monthly electric bill up to 15 percent! Also, using the power of the sun and the wind, instead of fossil fuels and nuclear power, is good for the environment because the generation of electricity using fossil fuels creates greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change, and the generation of nuclear power produces radioactive waste. Not to mention, line-dried clothes smell better and help your clothes to last longer!

A DES Partner’s Program participant, Project Laundry List (PLL) is an international non-profit group based here in New Hampshire that is dedicated to making air-drying laundry acceptable and desirable as a simple and effective way to save energy and reduce your carbon footprint. According to PLL, air drying clothes is one simple behavioral change that will help solve problems like high energy costs, global warming, and energy dependence. Because of resistance to this energy-saving practice, especially in multi-family units like condo associations, legislators in some states (including New Hampshire) have proposed “Right to Dry” laws that will outlaw ordinances that prohibit clotheslines and hanging out clothes to dry.

Project Laundry List wants Americans to get back to the days when using a clothesline was the best way, and the most acceptable way, to dry laundry. Every year, Project Laundry List joins together with organizations from around the country to promote National Hanging Out Day – this year on April 19. National Hanging Out Day is a way to show how it is possible to save money and energy by using a clothesline.

Project Laundry List wants to raise awareness about consumers’ choices and how consumption patterns create a demand for electricity. Personal choices can and do make a difference for the

Earth and its people. Try hanging out laundry for the first time or bring the practice back and see how much of a difference you can make!

For more information, visit www.laundrylist.org or email Project Laundry List Director Alexander Lee at info@laundrylist.org.