

# ASK GREEN GIRL

Dear Green Girl,  
During the winter, my apartment gets very cold. I have turned up the heat a little but I don't have a lot of money to burn and cranking the heat can't be good for the environment. Please give me some practical ideas on how I can keep the coldness out.  
Thanks for your help,  
- Freezing on Fenwick Street.



Well Freezing on Fenwick, I empathize. My house gets ridiculously cold sometimes, and it takes just about all my environmentally friendly super-will-power to resist pumping up the heat.

But you are right about it not being so kind to the environment. However, since most students rent rather than own their homes, there is not much they can do about the sources of their energy (ie: sustainable energy like solar power, or non-renewable fossil fuels), or whether or not their homes are constructed for energy efficiency. Indeed such words as 'drafty' and 'rickety' are sometimes considered synonymous with student rental accommodations.

But there are still some things you can do to reduce your heat consumption while still remaining toasty warm — or at least luke warm.

First of all, consider the places where heat escapes: windows and doors. A window can lose as much as six to ten times the amount of heat as the same area of wall. And of course doors are always opening to let cold air in and hot air out, while the cracks under and around the door are constant leaks. So, try putting plastic over most of your windows, or even just hanging heavy curtains up. Some friends of mine actually hang thick blankets over their windows to retain heat. But don't forget the power of the sun. The solar energy coming in your south facing windows will warm up your house during the day, and these windows can then be covered at night to keep this heat in.

Definitely avoid leaving your doors open, and if there is a significant space between the door and the floor, get your landlord to purchase and install one of those door-draft stopper things. It is just a piece of plastic which screws onto the bottom of the door, and blocks the draft. Likewise see if you can persuade your landlord to ensure that none of your windows have cracks or breaks which let in the cold.

Another tip is to spend a lot of time in the kitchen! Since this is where all the cooking action goes on, it can actually be the cosiest, warmest spot in the house. And when you are done doing your baking, leave the oven door open so the heat dissipates through the room.

If your kitchen is really a great place to hang out, you might consider hanging curtains up in the doorways to the rest of the house, thus insulating the warmth of the kitchen. You can also use this same technique to block off the rest of the house from the entrance area to stop cold winds from blowing into the house.

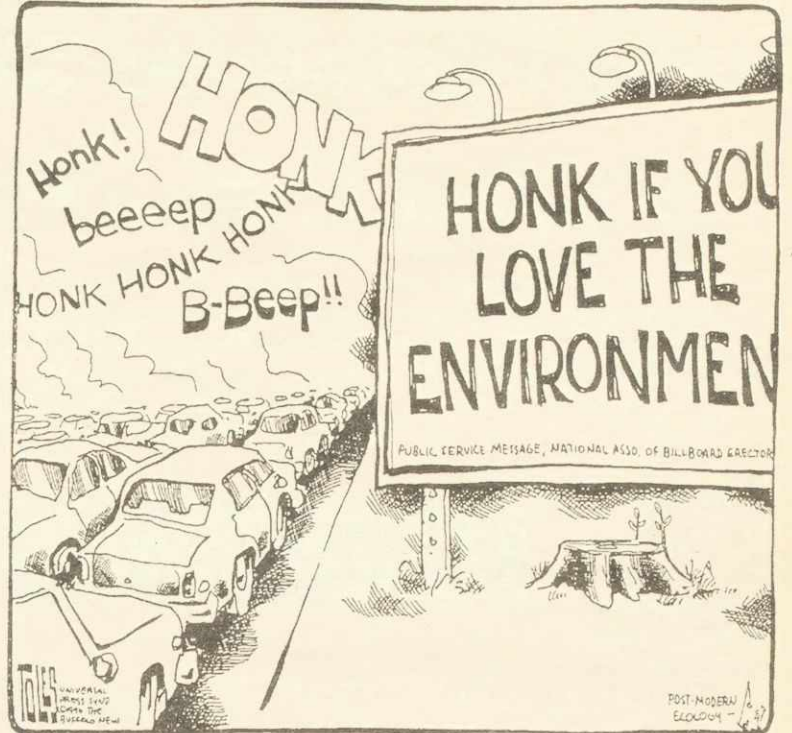
A practical, money-saving tip is to not ride the thermostat roller coaster. The temperature should be set at a constant temperature throughout the day, and be dropped at night to a lower temperature. Nova Scotia Power suggests a daytime temperature setting of 21 degrees Celsius, and a nighttime temperature of 18 degrees. For every degree the thermostat is set above this range, your use of energy increases by about 2 percent, while for every degree it is set below this range, your energy use decreases by 2 percent. I think most people can probably stand a mere 19 or 20 degrees — but that is up to each person's comfort level.

A good rule of thumb to remember: before you run to turn up the thermostat — try putting on a sweater. Some people forget that it is winter and we live in Canada. There is no reason why we should be comfortable walking around in shorts and a t-shirt!

Good luck keeping the blood flowing!

## GREEN GIRL

Send your questions, comments or even your crazy rants to:  
greengirl@xweb.ns.ca or gazette@is2.dal.ca  
Or drop by the Gazette office: SUB 312



# WANTED: Writers for Science and Environment section!

Present, past and potential.  
Come to a short meeting on Monday,  
January 31 at 5:15 p.m. (after the  
regularly scheduled Gazette meetings). Of  
course it would be great if you come at  
4:30 p.m. for the regular meeting too.

Tasty refreshments will be  
served, and great conversation  
will be had!

CKDU 97.5 FM

## FUNDING RIDE 2000 EVENTS GUIDE!

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

Dalhousie SUB Lobby — CKDU Funding Ride 2000 Kick-Off • 12noon, free (all ages)  
• Russian Dragons, Birdie Num Num, Aaron MacDonald

Pavilion — Superdancing Rock'n'Roll Extravaganza • 8pm, \$4 (all ages) • Rick of the Skins, Confidence Band

Grawood — Snow Jam 2000 • 9pm, \$5 (liquor ID or Dal ID) • R\$ \$mooth, The Beat Market with DJ Flexman and Dre

Marquee Club — 10pm, \$4 • Holiday Snaps, Burdocks, Sequel 17

### MONDAY, JANUARY 31

Ward Room, University of King's College — 9pm, pay what you can • Guthries, Dave Peddle, Becky Siamon, with magician Zooma (must be signed in by King's student)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 • 15th Anniversary of FM

Khyber Ballroom — CKDU's 15 Years of FM Anniversary Bash • 7pm, \$15 • BRAYNE TRUST Comic Book Slideshow by Charles Austin and Mitchell Weib plus a countrified feast! Includes admission to Khyber bar show at 8pm.

Khyber Cafe — 8pm, \$5 • Communication return with Peter Kocik, Dolby & Stuart, Gray Matter

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Dio Mio Gelato Desserts Cafe — 10pm, \$4 (all ages) • Plumtree, The plan, and guest

Khyber Cafe — Drum Jam 00: A Pagan Community Gathering • 9pm, \$3

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Oxford Movie Theatre — cool movie TBA • midnight, \$5 (all ages)

Location TBA — Metal War 2000 • time TBA, \$3 • Insipid, Terratomb, Sloth, Wohedness, Subservient, and more

Marquee Club — Piggy CD Release Party • 10pm, \$5 • Piggy, Al Tuck & No Action, and guest



Great prizes, on-air giveaways, t-shirts, mugs, magnets, CDs, books, gift certificates, and more!

## DIAL AND DONATE: 49-HAPPY Funding Ride 2000 • Jan. 28-Feb. 6

For more info, contact CKDU — Office: 494-6479; Sales: 494-1250; Fax: 494-1110



# DID YOU KNOW?

- Plastic bags pollute waterways and highways and kill marine animals and seabirds.
- Plastic bags do not bio-degrade and create tremendous amounts of free blowing litter.

If you really want to make a great choice, durable and reusable canvas bags and knapsacks are hard to beat for environmental friendliness.

- A reusable bag uses 1/10 the amount of energy it takes to make 100 plastic bags.

So next time you purchase an item at a store think about two things

Do you really need to take a bag? (you could instead stuff it in your jacket or purse, or carry it in your hand)

Contemplate how you might reuse the bag (you might already have a cupboard full of plastic bags at home)