

The Yard Smart Pledge

“ I pledge to use ecologically-smart practices in my yard.”

I believe these sustainable yard practices will help keep our community healthy, naturally beautiful, and safe from harmful chemicals, unnecessary pollution, and waste. I will also try to educate others in my community about the benefits of these practices.

Qualities of Ecologically Sustainable “Smart Yards”

- Safe for children, adults, pets, wildlife and all living things.
- Conserve natural resources like water and fossil fuels.
- Support native diversity in plants and wildlife.
- Do not pollute air, soil or water.
- Work with (not against) nature.
- Avoid or minimize synthetic pesticides and high-nitrogen fertilizers.



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Yard Smart Program



Yard Smart is part of the Ecology Action Center's Clean Water Program. It is a voluntary effort to encourage residents to reduce synthetic pesticide/fertilizer use, conserve natural resources, and make room for wildlife. Yard Smart promotes yard care practices that are safe for children, pets, and the environment. The program aims to recognize local homeowners who use ecologically– sustainable practices in their yard to the benefit of the whole community.

More information at yardsmart.org

Why Be Yard Smart?

We expect a lot from our yards—we want them to bring beauty to our home and neighborhood, be an inviting space for play, laughter, and gatherings, and to provide sanctuary from hectic daily life.

Sometime our attempts to beautify our yards can cause unintended harm, especially when we use synthetic pesticides (like weed killers and insecticides). The simple choices we make for yard care can have a big impact on the health of the whole community, from the water we drink, to the air we breathe.

“Unintended” Human Health Concerns

- Weed killers (i.e. 2,4-D) are linked to rising rates of lymphoma in 75 of 99 human studies according to the National Lymphoma Society.
- Women who used lawn services had higher rates of breast cancer, according to a Massachusetts study.
- Children are 6 times more likely to have leukemia if their parents used garden pesticides and herbicides once or more a month, according to a Los Angeles study.
- Over the long term, several types of cancer, damage to nervous systems, birth defects, and infertility have been associated with exposure to common lawn care products.

Environmental Concerns

- A study of air pollution in California found that mower emissions per year equaled that produced by 3,500,000 automobiles driven 16,000 miles each.
- Habitat loss is the number one threat to wildlife today. You can help restore the balance by creating a place for wildlife in your yard.

Three Elements of Yard Smart Certification

The Chemical-Free Yard

Avoids using synthetic pesticides, which can harm humans, wildlife and the environment. Avoids the use of synthetic ammonia fertilizers, which can contaminate groundwater and kill beneficial soil microorganisms.

The Easy on the Earth Yard

Reduces waste and conserves natural resources like water and fossil fuels. Minimizes recourse-intensive turf grass, and promotes a healthy, diverse ecosystem. If synthetic pesticides are needed, homeowners practice Integrated Pest Management with use of the least toxic pesticides.

The Wildlife Habitat Yard

Provides the basic requirements for wildlife to survive and flourish. Encourages a diverse wildlife population by landscaping with native plants, supplying adequate food and water, and providing a variety of shelter areas.

How Do I Apply for Certification?

To apply for Yard Smart certification, stop by the **Ecology Action Center** or visit yardsmart.org.

Take the Yard Smart Pledge, complete the form and send it with a \$15 donation to the EAC to receive a yard smart sign. You can request certification guidelines and application forms with this order, or download forms from the above websites.

Complete the application for certification of choice and mail them in for review. For each qualified certification level, you will receive a sticker to affix to the back of your Yard Smart sign. You can apply for additional certification levels at any time.

The Yard Smart Program

When you join the Yard Smart program and display the Yard Smart Award in your yard, you are indicating that you've taken the pledge toward supporting ecologically sustainable practices in our community.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I wish to order the following items:

Item (check item)	Cost per item
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal "Yard Smart" award (8")	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Stake (must pick up*)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to be Chemical-Free	No charge
<input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to be Easy on the Earth	No charge
<input type="checkbox"/> I pledge to provide Wildlife Habitat	No charge
Postage and handling (no charge if you pick up at the EAC)	\$4
Total Donation	

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