How Green Can I Be? form

Thank you for your interest in How Green Can I Be? form!

The online form has been developed specifically for the residents of seven neighborhoods participating in the Cary Green Neighborhood Project (CGNP).

This .pdf version of the form is intended for those Cary residents whose neighborhood is not participating in the project, but they are motivated as an individual to "go green" in everyday life. While you won't be able to fill out this form and submit it, we are confident going through it will help you learn about several ways in which you can still participate in the existing Town of Cary programs related to conservation and environmental protection. We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider committing to at least a few green actions that fit into your lifestyle, as you explore the document.

For any feedback or questions, please contact:

Shuchi Gupta, Project Manager
shuchi.gupta@townofcary.org
919-380-4232
How Green Can I Be? Form

Thank you for joining your neighborhood’s efforts to become one of the first Green Neighborhoods in Cary!

- The recognition level of your neighborhood will depend on the percentage of households filling out the form.
- Only 1 form per household, please.
- You must be 18 years old or older to complete this form. By completing this form you agree to be subscribed to the Cary Green Neighborhood Project electronic mail list.

The form lists more than 40 simple green actions for you to choose from:
- It will take you approximately 10-15 minutes to complete this form.
- Chances are that you are already doing some of these actions.
- As you go through the list please indicate what you are doing already, and actions you plan to adopt in the coming year.
- This exercise is intended to assist you in learning about and in committing to green actions.
- No one will contact you about your commitments.

Please note that your completed form is considered a public record under the North Carolina Public Records law, and responses, excluding your email address, may be shared with third parties upon request and without notice.

Get Started!
How Green Can I Be? Form

Protect Water

Aquastar allows you to view your household’s water consumption online, even down to hourly increments, to better understand your water use and consumption habits. Have you signed into Aquastar? (Please note a DigiPay account is required to sign into Aquastar. It only takes a minute to set up a DigiPay account.)

- Yes
- I will sign up for an AquaStar account within a year
- Not at this time

An Aquastar alert enables you to be notified by email or text within 24 hours if your water use exceeds your expected daily amount, helping you identify potential leaks that contribute to higher water bills. Have you set a leak alert? (Please note a DigiPay account is required to log into Aquastar and set up the alert. It only takes a minute to set up a DigiPay account.)

- Yes
- I will set up a leak alert within a year
- Not at this time

To prevent irrigation systems from running in the rain, households with an automatic irrigation system must have a rain sensor. Does your irrigation system have a rain sensor?

- Yes
- No, but I will install one within a year
- Not applicable because I do not have an automatic irrigation system
- Not at this time

As a homeowner you can harvest rainwater to help irrigate your garden
or landscape. Do you collect rainwater at your home?

- Yes
- I plan to within a year
- Not applicable, based on our Homeowner's Association covenants
- Not at this time

The **Alternate Day Watering** Ordinance helps the Town manage the increased water demand that comes from irrigation. Dividing the irrigation demand into two sets of days enables our water treatment plant to serve our community's needs longer than if we did not have the Alternate Day Watering schedule. How often do you water your lawn according to the schedule? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA (for not applicable) if you use reclaimed water, do not water at all, only water by hand (which means watering with a handheld device), or use drip irrigation.)

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Watering your lawn in the evening and early morning minimizes water loss through evaporation, helping you irrigate with fewer gallons and dollars spent. How often do you water your lawn in the evening or early morning hours? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA (for not applicable) if you do not water your lawn.)

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**Testing your toilets** for leaks using dye tablets or food coloring is simple and inexpensive. Fixing leaks can help you save money on your water bill. Do you check your toilets for leaks and repair as needed?

- Yes
- I plan to do so within a year
- Not at this time

**Water-Sense** certified toilets operate as effectively as regular toilets and use fewer gallons of water per flush. Do you have a Water-Sense certified toilet in your home?

- Yes
- I plan to purchase one within a year or when I next replace a toilet
You can help reduce storm water run-off and protect the quality of water reaching our rivers and streams. For each of the actions below, identify whether you typically do it, plan to do it within a year, or don’t plan to do it at this time; select NA (for not applicable) if this type of action doesn’t make sense at your home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I typically do this</th>
<th>I plan to do this within a year</th>
<th>Not at this time</th>
<th>NA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sweep fertilizer that falls on impervious surfaces such as my driveway, the sidewalk or street back into my yard.</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep grass clippings or other debris such as sticks or trash out of streets and storm drains when doing yard work.</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>Pick up, bag and dispose of pet waste in the trash.</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>Apply fertilizers/pesticides only in recommended amounts.</td>
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<td>Volunteer to label our Town’s storm drains to help raise awareness about stormwater pollution.</td>
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<td>Dispose of household hazardous waste such as paint or motor oil at approved sites, not down storm drains.</td>
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Create Healthy Yards

Our Town has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation on the Cary Garden for Wildlife Program to support and care for the 3Bs (birds, bees and butterflies) in Cary. Have you certified your yard as a wildlife habitat through this program?

○ Yes
○ I plan to do so within a year
○ Not at this time

Several simple, fun and easy pollinator-friendly elements can help attract and support the 3Bs in your yard. Do you have any of the following pollinator-friendly elements in your yard? (Select all that apply)

- Bird feeder
- Birdbath
- Birdhouse
- Flowering plants
- Not at this time
Native plants help create healthy backyards by limiting invasive plants in the yard, requiring lower maintenance, and making larger habitat available for a variety of wildlife. Do you have any native plants in your yard?

- Yes
- I plan to plant some within a year
- Not at this time

Switching from synthetic fertilizer to organic fertilizers/compost for landscaping needs can have a positive environmental and health impacts. Do you use organic fertilizers or compost for your yard or garden?

- Yes
- I plan to do so within a year
- I do not fertilize
- Not at this time
Save Energy

A Home **Energy Audit** is the first step to understanding the logical and least expensive ways to reduce your home’s energy consumption and the energy bills. Have you had a Home Energy Audit done?

- Yes
- I plan to do so within a year
- Not at this time

Do you know what an **Energy Pyramid** is? Basic knowledge about the Energy Pyramid can be very helpful for a homeowner to understand which home energy improvements are most suitable for his/her home and will provide the highest bang for the buck. In fact the Town offers a free “Let’s Get Energy Smart!” class about this concept. (Email Shuchi.Gupta@townofcary.org for information about this class.)

- Yes
- No, but I plan to learn within a year
- Not at this time

A simple and easy way to save energy and money at home is to install **energy efficient light bulbs**. Have you switched to more energy efficient bulbs like CFLs (compact fluorescents) or LEDs (light emitting diodes)?

- Yes, all of my bulbs are either CFL or LED
- Yes, most of my bulbs are either CFL or LED
- I plan to switch all or most of my bulbs to more efficient bulbs within a year
- Not at this time

**Energy Star** certified appliances consume 30-50 percent less energy than non-certified ones. When purchasing appliances for your home do you choose Energy Star certified appliances?

- Yes
- If I replace an appliance, I will look for the Energy Star label
- Not at this time
No or low cost steps can help a home save energy. For each of the following, check whether you do this most to all of the time (check all that apply); if you only do it now and then, do not check.

- Turn off lights when leaving a room
- Install programmable thermostats
- Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs/ CFLs
- Wash laundry in cold water
- Wash full loads of laundry
- Do full loads of dishes in a dishwasher
- Line dry clothes when possible (please note that this may not be allowed by some HOAs)
- Use a clothes drying rack inside when possible
- Regularly change HVAC filters
- Use power strips to avoid phantom load
- Mostly purchase Energy Star appliances
- Take 5 minute power showers
- Set my water heater to 120 degrees
- I do not wish to choose any at this time
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

To help prevent costly and environmentally damaging sewer line blockages and overflows that can happen when residents wash their used cooking oil down the kitchen drain, Cary's FOG (Fats, Oil and Grease) recycling program offers free curbside pick up of used cooking oil. The Town works with a vendor to turn this used cooking oil into biodiesel. Pick up arrangements can be made by calling (919) 469-4090. How often do you dispose of your cooking oil using the FOG recycling program? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA (for not applicable) if you dispose of your used cooking oil in the trash, which is also acceptable.)

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To prevent issues in sewer lines or local streams that can be caused when residents dump used motor oil and filters down the drains, the Town offers free curbside pick up of used oil and filters. Arrangements can be made by calling (919) 469-4090. How often do you dispose of your motor oil and filters using this program? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA (for not applicable) if you pay to have your oil changed.)

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Using a trash can to dispose of personal care products (such as "flushable" wipes, dental floss, and feminine products) prevents clogging of sewer lines in your home and in the Town's sewer collection system. How often do you dispose of your personal care products in the trash? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA if not applicable.)

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The Cary Recycles Program includes convenient bi-weekly curbside pick up. How often do you recycle using this program? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA (for not applicable) if this service is not available in your neighborhood.)

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Keeping all items loose, never bagged, in your recycling cart is the most effective way to ensure that they get sorted correctly at the recycling facility. When you recycle, how often do you "keep it loose" in the cart? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always.")

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Empty pizza boxes are not accepted for recycling in our Cary Recycles Program, and are therefore considered trash. How often do you put your pizza boxes in the trash? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always." Choose NA (for not applicable) if you don't buy delivery pizza.)

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To safely and correctly dispose of any household hazardous waste (paint, household cleaners, pesticides, antifreeze, gasoline etc.) it should be taken to a Wake County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center. How often do you dispose of your hazardous wastes at a Wake County HHW Collection Center? (Use a 0 to 9 scale where 0 is "never", 5 is "about half of the time" and 9 is "always.")

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The Town organizes several annual waste diversion events that help citizens avoid sending items to the landfill. Indicate all of the waste diversion events you have participated in or plan to within a year.

- [ ] America Recycles Day (Free and safe shredding and recycling of personal sensitive documents)
- [ ] Reuse Rodeo (Donation of goods for reuse by local non-profits)
- [ ] Compost Bin Sale (Discounted sale of compost bins)
Travel Smart

**C-Tran** fixed route service is a safe, reliable, and efficient transit system run by the Town. Have you ever tried **C-Tran**?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] I plan to within the year
- [ ] There is no C-Tran stop near my neighborhood
- [ ] Skip this question

The Town would like for you to consider C-Tran as an option for getting from place to place. Which of the following would be a good way to reach you to let you know about our C-Tran routes and services? (Click all that apply)

- [ ] BUD
- [ ] Cary TV
- [ ] Ad in newspaper
- [ ] Ad on TV
- [ ] Ad on radio
- [ ] Special Events
- [ ] Letter or postcard mailed to your home
- [ ] Town's website
- [ ] Social media like Twitter and Facebook
- [ ] Other (please specify)

The Town of Cary has **electric vehicle charging stations** to allow residents/visitors to charge while they visit Town facilities. Did you know about these opportunities?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] I didn’t before, but I do now!
- [ ] Skip this question

**TransLoc Rider** (search for the TransLoc app on your smart phone) is a free app providing live information about the entire triangle regional transit system, including C-Tran. You can never miss a bus once you
### begin using it. Have you downloaded it yet?

- Yes
- I plan to within the year
- Not applicable
- Skip this question

### The GoLive website allows you to track buses real-time and view their estimated arrival at stops near you. Have you ever used this website?

- Yes
- I plan to within the year
- Not applicable
- Skip this question

### C-Tran has connections to North Carolina State University and Raleigh, Monday through Saturday. Information on these regional transit connections can be obtained simply by calling (919) 485-RIDE (7433). Do you know about these connections?

- Yes
- I plan to find out within the year
- Not applicable
- Skip this question

### The Town has many well maintained greenways that residents can use to enjoy a walk or bike ride. Have you ever walked/biked on a greenway?

- Yes
- I plan to within the year
- Skip this question

### The Town has a free app Bike and Hike Cary to help residents and visitors to enjoy our greenways. Have you downloaded this app on your smart phone?

- Yes
- I plan to within the year
- I do not have a smart phone
- Skip this question

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Get Involved in Your Community

Most neighborhoods have an organized way for residents to communicate, interact and stay in touch with each other. Which of those listed below does your neighborhood use? (Click all that apply.)

- Facebook page
- Twitter
- Mailing List
- Nextdoor
- Website
- Newsletter
- Skip this question
- Other (please specify) [ ]

Which of the below listed communication methods do you use regularly?

- Facebook page
- Twitter
- Mailing List
- Nextdoor
- Website
- Newsletter
- I do not currently use any regularly, but I plan to within the year
- Skip this question
- Other (please specify) [ ]

Many neighborhoods organize social events (e.g. pool party, Halloween Parade etc.) for residents to enjoy and get to know each other better. Have you attended any such events in your neighborhood?

- Yes
- I plan to attend within the next year
- My neighborhood does not have such events
- Skip this question

The Town offers its residents many volunteering opportunities, including Spruce, Block Leader, Adopt a Spot, Environmental Advisory...
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Have you ever volunteered for any of these Town programs?</td>
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<td>☐ I plan to within the year</td>
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Anually, the Town organizes multiple environmentally-focused community celebrations, including Arbor Day, Herbfest, and Earth Day (which is part of the Spring Daze Festival). Have you ever had the opportunity to attend any of these celebrations? (Email Sarah.Justice@townofcary.org for more information about any of these events.)

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Anually, the Town organizes several environmentally-focused service opportunities for its residents, including the Spring Litter Sweep, Fall Litter Sweep, National Trails Day, MLK Day of Service, and 9/11 Day of Service. Have you ever participated in any of these opportunities? (Email Sarah.Justice@townofcary.org for more information about any of these opportunities.)

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The Town has year-round opportunities available for Girl Scout and Boy Scout projects. Has your family and/or someone you know ever taken advantage of these? (Email Sarah.Justice@townofcary.org for more information about these opportunities.)

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The BLOCK Leader Program provides Cary residents with the latest information on important environmental and conservation programs and services offered by the Town. Have you ever received a Block Leader packet?

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The "Cary It Green" Facebook page highlights the Town’s services, initiatives, and outreach opportunities that help residents live and be green. Have you "liked" this page?

- Yes
- I plan to within the year
- I do not use Facebook
- Skip this question

We always like to hear from you! If you have any comments about this project or the Town of Cary’s green efforts, please provide them in the box below.

About You

Please verify the following information:

First Name: test
Last Name: test
Email Address: test@test.com

Previous   Submit Form