

Environment

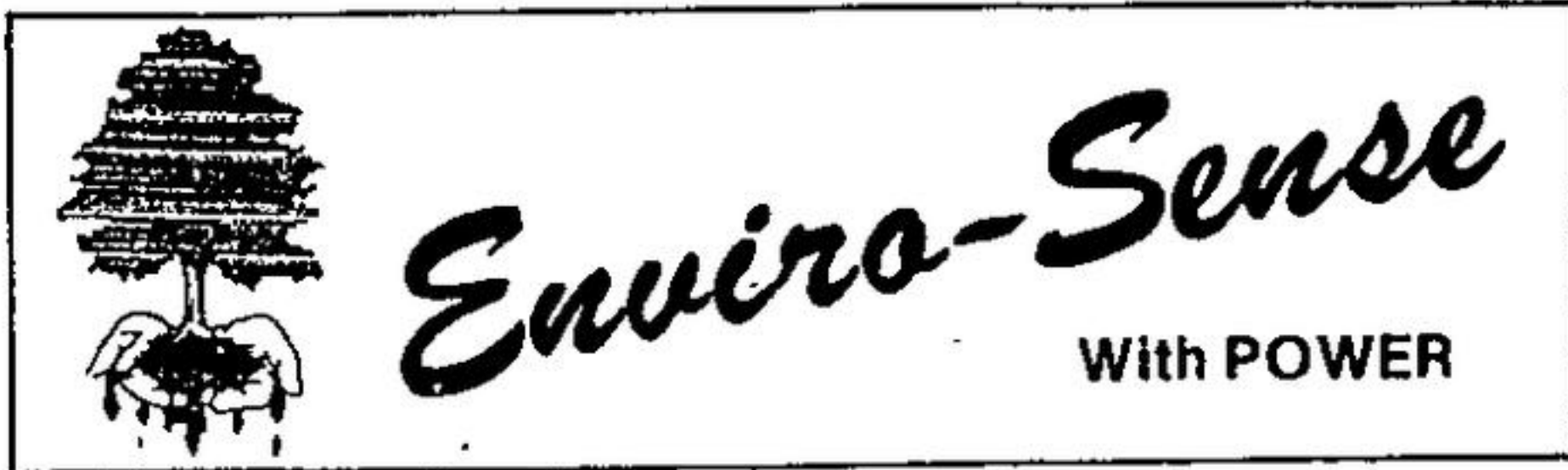
Taking care of laundry chores is also an environmental concern

By BARBARA HALSALL

Laundry Changes Save Energy
Changing the washer setting to cold rinse saves enough energy over a year for about 220 showers. This comes from a pamphlet put out by Ontario Hydro.

Cold rinsing is also easier on fabrics and leads to less fading. Energy saved is money saved. While many of us have been doing this for years, Hydro estimates that one third of all washes in Ontario are still rinsed in warm or hot water. If every family in Ontario consistently used cold water for rinsing laundry, 1.5 billion gals of hot water would be saved each year worth about \$25 million of energy. That's enough power for a town the size of Goderich, Ontario.

Pre-spot stains to avoid having to wash twice. Air dry after stain treatment. If the stain is not completely out the dryer will set it permanently. Wait for a full washer



load or adjust the water level to match the load size.

Clean the dryer lint filter after each load or even during a load for maximum dryer efficiency. Clothes dryers use a lot of energy and are hard on fabrics. Consider a clothesline. Clothes smell great dried outside. Even if you only hang out one load of wash each week, it will soon pay for itself. T-shirts shrink less and keep their shape if dried on hangers. Many clothing items now have washing instructions that say "hang to

dry."

If you are shopping for a washer or dryer, make sure the washer has settings for cold wash and rinse as well as variable water levels. Compare the EnerGuide ratings. The lower the number the more energy efficient the appliance. A cool-down or permapress cycle on your dryer saves energy and reduces wrinkling. It should also save ironing. An electronic moisture sensor will automatically turn the machine off when clothes are dry. Overdrying is very hard on fabrics so this adds to the life of your clothes as well as saving energy.

When it comes to ironing, don't. Try the wrinkled look. At least

don't leave the iron on. Most irons warm up quickly and do not need to be turned on for five minutes to heat up.

When you choose to do the laundry can also make a difference. Ontario Hydro must supply sustained power but also meet peak demand times. Municipalities and industry are already metered and billed according to time of consumption. Eventually that could happen to residential use.

In the summer, on hot days, peak demand is between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. In the winter peak demand is roughly 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Especially avoid your dryer during those hours, but better still, forget about laundry during those hours. Tape a note of those hours on your washer and dryer to remind yourself to form good habits.

Some of our electricity is produced by coal-fired generating stations. When we save electricity, we are helping to reduce acid rain as well as carbon dioxide that contributes to the greenhouse effect. These are changes you can make. You can make a difference.

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Global ReLeaf program eyes Halton Hills

Global ReLeaf, an international campaign encouraging people in towns, cities and rural areas to plant trees, wants to fund tree-planting programs in Halton Hills.

The goal in Canada is to plant 15 million energy-conserving trees over the next five years. The Global ReLeaf campaign was launched in this country on Earth Day, April 22, 1990 and is operated by Friends of the Earth.

Dan Gamble, Program Director for Global ReLeaf, wants to hear from any community group or organization interested in planting trees. All requests for funding will be reviewed by a selection committee.

The Global ReLeaf Program is funded through the generous sponsorship and promotional fundraising efforts of many Canadian businesses and corporations. "The Global ReLeaf Fund" is a dedicated fund which means donations can only be used to support tree-planting projects across Canada.

Twice a year, in the spring and fall, Global ReLeaf will make grants to qualifying groups.

"Anyone can get involved in the Global ReLeaf program," says Gamble. Citizens groups, environmental organizations, aborists, service clubs, municipal parks departments, church groups, small businesses, student groups, anyone interested in helping the environment, is encouraged to contact Global ReLeaf.

"When a group joins the Global ReLeaf team, it receives all the materials it needs to launch its tree-planting program and qualifies to apply for funds.

"Trees are invaluable in our battle to save the environment," explains Gamble. "Not only do they reduce demand for fossil fuels, but they help fight global warming."

Trees offer substantial energy conservation benefits. Just three hardwood shade trees planted to the south and west of a house can reduce air-conditioning needs by 50 per cent, save money and reduce coal-burning at power stations.

In winter, trees planted around a house act as windbreaks and save

on heating costs, which lead to fewer carbon dioxide emissions.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this worthwhile cause should contact: Dan Gamble, Program Director, Global ReLeaf, 251 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J6. (613) 230-3352.

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