

A close-up photograph of several vibrant green leaves with serrated edges, set against a bright, slightly blurred white background. The leaves are arranged in a cluster, with some in sharp focus and others softly blurred in the foreground and background.

# Going Green in Bucks

**Armed with good information and the proper attitude,** Bucks County residents can find more earth-friendly choices close to home than they could even just a couple years before. These days, you can even buy a “green” poker table!

Indeed, buying locally is an environmentally-protective act in itself because it reduces pollution from transportation and often added packaging.

Ways to save your family’s health and the welfare of the world are literally on every corner — from the green-and-yellow recycling bins at many Bucks County schools to the pick-your-own family farms that dot the countryside.





Green means eco-friendly, earth friendly, sustainable, renewable or recycled.

Want to find some more unusual "green" gems in your own backyard?

## Consider these:

**Buy safer bedding.** Your Organic Bedroom opened earlier this year in Doylestown, selling organic mattresses and bedding from cribs to king sets and infant clothing. Owner Leann Broad of Carversville says people understand that it's healthier for them and the planet to eliminate polyurethane mattresses and pillows, which can expose you to potential carcinogens. Wool mattresses, for example, don't need chemicals to meet fire regulations because wool is a natural fire retardant. "People are curious," Leann says. "People are buying first for their infants because they're more susceptible to absorbing toxins." ([www.yourorganicbedroom.com](http://www.yourorganicbedroom.com), 215-345-5551)

**Visit The Environmental Store in Doylestown.** Named "Best Green Resource" in "Best of Philly 2008." Just opening this fall, the showroom features green building products, such as paints, countertops and carpeting, design and installation. ([www.environmentalhomestore.com](http://www.environmentalhomestore.com), 215-368-2589) Many builders are using green methods and materials. A very hot trend in building is using eco-friendly products with the highest quality.

### Recycle your electronics.

Verizon, AT&T and other vendors will take back used cell phones, and Bucks County holds free household hazardous waste programs to collect computers and peripherals five to six times a year throughout the County. ([www.buckscounty.org](http://www.buckscounty.org), click on How do I...recycle in Bucks. That page also offers information on companies who will take donation anytime for a small fee and where to dispose of other problematic items like refrigerators and paint.) You can also use the free energy calculator at [www.mygreenelectronics.org](http://www.mygreenelectronics.org) to evaluate how much energy your devices are using so you can make wise choices about cutting back.

### Insist on "Green" produce.

Blue Moon Acres in Buckingham has been offering top-quality microgreens

and herbs to fine restaurants and caterers without the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers or growth regulators. You can buy directly from the seven-acre farm Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Blue Moon will be expanding to a 65-acre farm in Pennington, near Princeton, this spring, says Ashley Lyons, daughter of owners Jim and Kathy Lyons. ([www.bluemoonacres.net](http://www.bluemoonacres.net), 215-794-3093)

### Organic florals.

Organically grown flowers and unusual accents make a great addition to your environment. For your bouquets and celebrations try the very freshest flowers. Harmony Hill Gardens in Sellersville offers specialty cut organic flowers, native flowers, natural elements, and unusual aquatic cuts. ([www.harmonyhillgardens.com](http://www.harmonyhillgardens.com), 215-997-5005)



One of the many beautiful arrangements of organic flowers offered by Harmony Hill



## ✓ Mark Your Calendar Green Kitchen Event Comes to Princeton

Miele will hold a green kitchen event, "It's Easy Being Green," on Saturday, October 18, at 9:45 a.m. in its new appliance gallery in Princeton, N.J. Miele makes appliances that are designed to last for 20 years of continuous use, far longer than the average. And then their high metal content and clearly marked plastic components are ready for recycling.

Local green experts from Mrs. G TV & Appliances, Superior Woodcraft, Lasley Brahaney Architecture and Construction, and A Step in Stone will help homeowners build or remodel their kitchen and laundry room and integrate energy-efficient design throughout their home.

Make reservations for the free program, which includes brunch, at 800-843-7231, x2515, vrobb@mieleusa.com.

**Hire a green designer for your printing needs.** "Being green also demonstrates a sense of personal responsibility," says Kim Bensing of Heirloom. "A green designer participates in efforts with clients to make a difference. I intentionally look for ways to be more environmentally conscious in creating and executing ideas for my clients. That includes using recycled papers, printing with recycled toner and plant-based inks and using nature and natural products in design whenever possible." ([www.heirloom-occasions.com](http://www.heirloom-occasions.com), 215-230-8223)

**Join a Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) co-op,** such as Blooming Glen, Clear Spring Farm in Easton or Anchor Run in Wrightstown. Members purchase a share of the harvest in the spring and in return receive a weekly supply of fresh organic produce, herbs and flowers. Members agree to share in the inherent benefits and risks of the agricultural season. The arrangement guarantees the farmer financial support and enables many smaller sustainable farms to stay in business. ([www.bloomingglenfarm.com](http://www.bloomingglenfarm.com), 215-257-2566; [www.anchor-runfarm.com](http://www.anchor-runfarm.com), 215-598-1519; [www.clearspringfarm.com](http://www.clearspringfarm.com), 610-258-5050)

**Dine wisely.** Jules Thin Crust in Newtown and Doylestown, for example, uses recycled paper for napkins and menus, compostable containers for salads, bio-friendly cleaning products and energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs. The pizzas and salads are organic, the meats hormone- and antibiotic-free and food is made from scratch. ([www.julesthincrust.com](http://www.julesthincrust.com))

**Buy Energy Star appliances.** This government-backed program helps consumers identify energy-efficient products, such as dishwashers, refrigerators, washers, room air conditioners and dehumidifiers. For example, according to Debbie Schaefer at Mrs. G's in Lawrenceville, N.J., an energy star dishwasher uses at least 41% less energy than standard models, nearly 5,000 gallons of water per year. And if you scrape the dishes, instead of rinsing, before loading them can save 20 gallons of water per cycle – or 6,640 gallons per year.

**Wear eco-friendly clothing,** such as the new Wish Pocket Pajamas, available at Lace Silhouettes Lingerie store in Peddler's Village in Lahaska. Created by owner Karen Thompson, it is "one of the world's softest pajamas, made from bamboo, a fabric that is cool in the summer, warm in the winter, antibacterial — and it breathes." The pajamas also feature a pocket for the wearer to jot down her wish. In addition, the five colors of the pajamas are intended to attract what the wearer wishes in life. For example, lilac attracts love. Long-sleeve wish pajamas will be available this fall in five new colors. Karen is also launching a non-profit "Wishes for Women" and already gives away a pair of pajamas a day, every day. ([www.lacesilhouetteslingerie.com](http://www.lacesilhouetteslingerie.com), 215-794-3545).

**Visit Churchville Nature Center's new green building.** Green buildings avoid or minimize negative impacts on the environment by conserving and using natural resources efficiently. The building will incorporate green and sustainable design features, which will allow it to become LEED certified. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design and is a nationally recognized green building rating system. ([www.churchvillenaturecenter.org](http://www.churchvillenaturecenter.org), 215-357-4005).

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