

AIW Goes Green, Part IV

It's encouraging to see how many of our AIW members are thinking "green" this year and are continuing with their good suggestions on the little things we can do to help our planet. Our members are excitedly talking about recycling, growing vegetable gardens (very "in" this year, now that the White House has a garden), water conservation, and eliminating using "stuff" that can't be recycled. Alana Robertson has a terrific "green" idea for us to remember when meeting up with other AIW members at local bookstores. Bring your own travel mug and when you buy coffee at the bookstore, ask the coffee shop to pour your coffee into your travel mug.

It's not too late to plant a garden. If you don't have a place to plant, you might consider container gardening in a sunny area on your porch or deck. Various herbs, as well as tomatoes and lettuce can easily be grown in small containers. Or if you don't have a "green thumb", you can check out local farmer's markets that were mentioned in the last AIW newsletter.

Did you know that you can recycle your computers and other electronics? With landfills already using up precious space on our planet, it is nice to know that we can recycle electrical items. For example, Best Buy will allow you to turn in electronic items (including TVs, DVD players, computer monitors, cell phones, etc.) They will take up to 2 items per day, and most can be turned in for free. (For some items they charge \$10 for disposal, but they'll give you a \$10 gift card to offset your cost.)

Many organizations also will take electronic items. If you go to the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful website, http://www.kibi.org/recycle/recycle_reuse_guide.htm you'll find helpful information about what you can recycle and where to go to do so.

For those of you who live in Carmel, check out the Carmel Green initiative website for further information <http://carmelgreen.org/>.

When you are finished with those ink cartridges that go into your printer, did you know that you can recycle the empty cartridges? If you just Google "recycle ink cartridges", you'll find plenty of options. Or you can recycle up to 10 cartridges per month at your local Staples store and receive \$3 credit per cartridge. So keep those good suggestions coming. Every step we take makes a difference.