

Hope Springs Retreat Center Reducing our Carbon Footprint

Hope Springs Retreat Center conserves water and energy by:

- Encouraging all clients to be conscious and conservative of resources by:
 - Using minimal water for showers
 - Cooling rooms by opening windows at night, shutting during the day and using fans in place of air conditioning in summer:
 - Lowering thermostat settings in winter
 - Asking clients to be mindful of all resource use and not waste water or energy
- Installing low water use toilets in all bathrooms
- Having shared bathrooms
- Putting blinds on all windows in bedrooms and bathrooms
- Turning off heat and air conditioning when the building is empty
- Purchasing energy and water efficient models when replacing lights, toilets, dishwashers, water heaters and washing machines
- Main meeting room designed for ample natural light and air flow
- Not changing bedding unless guests stay longer than one week.
- Not replacing towels while guests are here. Clean towels available when needed
- Washing laundry with a phosphate-free detergent.
- Environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Environmentally friendly shampoos and soaps in bathrooms.
- Encouraging people to car pool when driving to Hope Springs.

Hope Springs Retreat Center maintains a natural setting by:

- Prohibiting the use of synthetic chemicals or pesticides anywhere on the grounds.
- Choosing not to water lawns or gardens and planting drought resistant, local species.
- Committing to no permanent human structures on 100 of the 130 acres of land.
- Only mowing a small area around buildings plus a walking path on a regular basis and cutting the meadows and park areas once each year

Hope Springs Retreat Center prepares food with the environment in mind by:

- Purchasing produce from local organic growers whenever possible.
- Reducing packaging waste by purchasing fresh food or dried food purchased in bulk.
- Using cloth bags and reusable containers when purchasing food.
- Specializing in vegetarian cuisine.
- Serving no red meat.
- Serving chicken and fish only upon request of the leaders.
- Buying in bulk from the local coop whenever possible.
- Offering any leftover food to the staff and volunteers.
- Collecting all food scraps and giving to local animals (chickens, goats, pigs)
- Using reusable utensils, flatware and table settings, and avoiding Styrofoam.
- Using cloth napkins and asking clients to use for multiple meals.

Hope Springs Retreat Center reduces waste by:

- Providing recycling bins in all dining and meeting rooms.
- Taking recyclable materials to local collection stations.
- Eliminating one paper mailing/year.
- Communicating with clients electronically.
- Eliminating the use of plastic water bottles.