



2012 Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Win an overnight stay at the Craginair Inn!

The days leading up to and including Earth Day are a great time to get outside and explore your community. Participate in our Earth Day Scavenger Hunt and you could **win an overnight getaway for two**, with breakfast, at The Craginair Inn. The Craginair is an Environmental Leader inn on the scenic coast of Spruce Head, Maine.

How to Participate: Below is a list of things used by the eco-savvy to reduce their daily environmental footprint. You might already have some of these items in your own home. Your task is to **be an eco sleuth** and find an example of each item within your community. You'll need a good pair of walking shoes (or your bike, or the bus – no cars please!) and a digital camera to record your discoveries. To enter your name in the contest, post the photos (labeling each photo as the item discovered) on The SunriseGuide's Facebook wall by April 29. **We'll enter your name for each item you photograph!** (We'll only count the photos of different items, so no posting 15 bicycle shots...) The lucky winner will be chosen on April 30, and we'll be answering any questions posted to our Facebook wall throughout April. Have fun!

Here's what to look for:

Clothesline (even better if it's being used to dry the laundry!) – Hanging clothes on the line saves both water and electricity, and your clothes come off the line smelling like real summer breeze, not that summer scent from your chemical dryer sheet. Did you know sunshine is nature's best disinfectant?

Rain barrel – Rain barrels collect rain water for you to use in your yard or garden. In addition, they help mitigate pollution caused by runoff.

Solar panels (or solar hot water) – Sunshine is a free and abundant energy source. Solar panels capture the sun's energy and turn it into heat or electricity. Solar hot water tubes on the roof use the sun's heat to warm the water, so you don't have to burn fuel to do it.

Compost bin – Turn your cooking scraps into beautiful nutrient-rich soil for your garden or houseplants. As an added bonus, you'll have less trash to haul out, and it won't attract fruit flies or stink up your kitchen.

Worm composting bin – This alternative to traditional composting is suitable for indoor use, so it's great for year-round use and in small apartments. Plus, worms are just plain cool.

Organic garden – You might not know for sure by looking, but if you start asking, you may be surprised to find out just how many of your neighbors prefer to grow their gardens organically, without the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. This is better for the veggies, the soil, your neighbors, your family, and you!

Community garden – Community gardens offer multiple garden plots that bring people together to grow vegetables and share gardening tools, knowledge, and resources. Oh, and the results of your labors!

Counter top compost pail – Specially designed to keep the smell in and the flies out, this is just a temporary place to keep your food scraps until you carry them to your outside bin. If you don't have a fancy pail, any airtight container with a lid will work just fine.

CFL bulb (installed in a fixture) – Lots of ways to save energy require very little time and effort. Next time you go to the store for light bulbs, look for Energy Star-rated CFL bulbs. The average CFL bulb will save up to \$30 over its lifetime, so while it might be more expensive off the shelf, it'll save you money in the long run. They also last 10x longer than a standard incandescent bulb.

LED light bulb – LED lighting is an evolving technology that saves just as much energy as a CFL bulb (using 75% less than a standard incandescent), but can last 2-5 times longer than a CFL.

Recycling bin – Did you know that in the U.S., we recycle about 33% of our municipal solid waste? Everything you put in that blue bin is one less thing that ends up in a landfill. According to the EPA, 57% of waste is organic, so if everyone recycles and composts, imagine how much less trash trash we'd have!

Ingredients to make your own all natural cleaners – Just a few simple ingredients, that you probably already have around the house, are all you need to make all natural cleaners that will clean your counters, windows, floors, jewelry and more! These include baking soda, vinegar, and lemon juice... see how many more you can find.

Backyard chicken coop – Many municipalities (both urban and rural) in Maine allow families to raise backyard poultry. If you are willing to devote the time to taking care of the birds, you can have free-range pesticide- and hormone-free eggs (and meat!), right from your own backyard.

Public bus (such as METRO, So. Portland Bus Lines, ZOOM bus, Shuttle bus) – The more people take the bus, the less gas we all use! That's not the only benefit of public transportation, though: less traffic makes your city more pedestrian-friendly, and you'll meet new people from your community.

Cool bicycle – People love to have fun with their bikes. See what you can find! What other types of people-powered alternative transportation can you think of?