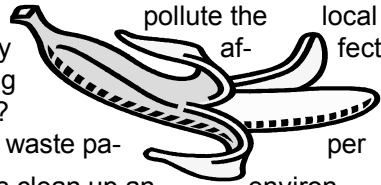


## Bananas & Recycling: What's the Appeal?

A menacing byproduct of Costa Rica's 2 million ton exports of bananas is waste — 500 thousand tons of banana stems every year. Banana stems pollute the local water system and negatively affect flora, fauna, and surrounding communities. The solution? "Banana Paper" made from waste paper and banana stems. It helps clean up an environmental water problem and helps stop deforestation.



To purchase Banana Paper go to [EcoPaper.com](http://EcoPaper.com). They also carry Coffee paper and Tobacco paper. (From *Eco-Agenda 1998*)

## News You Can Use

### Green Cleaning — Sponges

If you use sponges to clean your home, make sure they are pure cellulose sponges that are not treated with a synthetic disinfectant that claims to either "kill odors or "resists odors".

These sponges actually contribute to the evolution of drug-resistant "super" germs, because of the disinfectant in them.

To keep a pure cellulose sponge clean and germ-free boil it in a pot of water for 3-5 minutes, place it in the top rack of your dishwasher, or put it in your microwave on high for a minute.

### Green Cleaning —Copper

Instead of toxic cleaners, sprinkle half a lemon with kosher salt and use it as a scrub pad. Make sure you rinse well after cleaning, and your copper will shine like a brand new penny

produced by Wild Oats Markets, Inc.)

## Wildfire Safety Classes

The Uinta Headwaters RC & D Council and Community Solutions are holding this year's Wildfire Classes on Friday and Saturday, April 2 & 3 at the Summit County Library Richins Building. For more information email [jcraghead@exolo.com](mailto:jcraghead@exolo.com).

## Enjoy Organic Vegetables All Summer

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a farmer- and consumer-based movement that allows families to directly access farm fresh, organic produce and support organic agriculture. An upfront payment in the spring allows the farmer to predict what will be grown. Enjoy fresh produce all summer long by participating in this program. Make your reservations now by calling Ranui Gardens by calling at (435) 336 2813. Located at 14594 Hoytsville Rd. in Hoytsville.

## Automotive Recycling Resources

Call **Mercer Automotive** for used oil, batteries, antifreeze at 649-2886

Call **Burt Bros.** for used oil, used tires, batteries at 940-9154 or 649-1142

Call **Kamas Auto Service** for used oil, used tires at 783-6550

Call **"R" Auto Shop** for batteries & used oil at 336-4135

Call **Moore's Chevron** for used oil & batteries at 336-2140

Call **Merv's Auto Repair** for used oil & batteries at 654-2121

## New Car Buyers Look Before Leaping

It's up to us as consumers to look for cars that don't guzzle gas and pollute the air. Since cars and trucks account for 40 percent of U.S. oil consumption, consumers need to look critically at the fuel consumption of the models they consider. You can compare the fuel costs and emissions of the vehicles you are considering by going to: [www.environmentaldefense.org/tailpipetally](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/tailpipetally).

This site compares vehicles to the efficiency of a hybrid. While the price of a hybrid may be several thousand dollars higher than an ordinary gas guzzler, they prove significantly cheaper because hybrids save an estimated \$5,500 in fuel costs over its lifetime. The IRS currently provides a tax deduction up to \$1,500 for hybrid purchases. Some states also offer additional incentives.

## State Provides Energy Incentives

### Renewable Energy Tax Credits

Tax credit for solar, wind, biomass, and hydro technologies. *Residential:* 25% credit up to a maximum of \$2,000; *Commercial:* 10% tax credit up to a maximum of \$50,000

### Federal Business Investment Tax Credit

Solar and geothermal; 10 % of purchase & installation cost

### Net Metering

Requires Utah electric utilities to allow customers to connect renewable energy systems ( up to 25 kW ) to the grid ( municipal utilities are not required to net meter ).

Electricity must be generated from the sun, wind, water, or a fuel cell.

The utility will "net" the customer's electricity use and production, by paying the customer retail price for the electricity they produce. )

For info on above programs, check the Alternative Energy page at the Utah Energy Office web site [www.energy.utah.gov](http://www.energy.utah.gov) or call 800-662-3633.

