

# ARE YOU TRYING TO BE KINDER TO THE EARTH?

## Rent an apartment and you will be!

By Sheryl Erenberg

It's true. Apartment renters use 65 per cent less energy per household than people who live in houses! Renters have shorter commutes, take transit more and walk to their destination more, according to a recent report by the Federation of Rental Housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO) called "Apartment Living is Green".

### People who live in apartments:

- Use 40 per cent less water per person
- Produce 60 per cent less waste
- Have 10km shorter commutes

"The typical apartment is surrounded on either side by another apartment and one above and below. This configuration makes it less expensive to heat and cool ... compared to a detached house. Even townhomes and duplexes use less energy than a house," according to the report.

Not only do apartment residents generate less waste, but collecting the garbage from apartment buildings requires less trucks because hundreds are at one stop as opposed to driving to hundreds of houses spread over a wider region. This cuts down on traffic congestion and lowers gas emissions.

Only 50 per cent of apartment renters drive to work as opposed to 74 per cent of homeowners. Most apartment underground parking levels in the city have lots of empty spaces. Not owning a car in Toronto has never been easier with Autosshare, Zipcar and Car2Go available at so many apartment buildings.

New apartment buildings in the GTA feature recycling "carousels" that allow residents to rotate



the chute according to what material is being discarded. Glass, cans, paper and other recyclables all fall into different bins at the base. Older buildings now designate different days for recycling and regular garbage, more and more community garden plots are popping up in apartment buildings that have the space. Some apartments are experimenting with outdoor composters to divert even more from landfill.

Apartment renters have considerably lower carbon footprints and a higher quality of life, according to FRPO's report. Because they walk to work, and they live closer to their place of business, renters spend less time commuting and have more time for leisure. Renters also add to their leisure time by choosing a lifestyle that does not include shovelling snow, raking leaves, cleaning eaves or any other house maintenance. It's all done for you!

So relax! Your environmental conscious can be clear if you're renting. You are much Greener than those who live in a house.



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