

ECO-ACTION FOR THE WEEK

October 30, 2020 – Actions for Our Own Dear Planet

Hope everyone is finding ways to reduce use of plastics this year.

1. **If you do not already use renewable energy** (e.g., wind, solar) in your home/business, **consider transitioning** (or ask your building owner to transition) from carbon-based energy (coal, oil, natural gas) to renewable energy. Your electric company *supplies* your energy (and collects the bill), but you choose the *source* of it. Ask your electric company what renewable plans it offers and/or investigate plans from renewable energy companies. (For help, contact Sandra Lincoln, slincoln@shcj.org.) Once you decide, tell your electric company your choice. They do the rest.
2. **For sustainable earth-care, consider using leaves** to protect plants and bushes this winter. Piles of them provide some insulation of the ground and plant roots. While composting (turning into rich fertilizer), they provide habitat and food for a great variety of organisms, and their nutrients are released back into the soil. Leaves can remain on lawns if they form a layer thin enough for sun to penetrate. Mulched leaves work well for this. Your municipality might provide composting opportunities. Avoid burning the leaves (which can result in unwanted smoke and chemicals) and sending leaves to landfills (where they convert to methane, a potent greenhouse gas).