

# What Citizens Can Do to Help

The state law that created DEC requires the department to educate the public about ways to prevent damage to resources. For this reason, since its inception in 1970 DEC has had a vigorous public information program that includes a strong element of citizen responsibility.

Many of the information pieces created for DEC's education and information programs have been converted to electronic format, and are available on the department's website, along with opportunities for the public to take part in managing New York's resources.

## More about What Citizens Can Do to Help:

- [Don't Trash Our Air](#) - What happens when you burn household garbage and trash in a backyard burn barrel
- [Citizen Science: Wildlife Observation Data Collection](#) - Opportunities to help DEC collect data about New York's wildlife resource.
- [Return a Gift to Wildlife](#) - Return A Gift To Wildlife (RAGTW) was established by the legislature in 1982 to help provide additional funds to enhance DEC's fish and wildlife program.
- [Purchase a Habitat/Access Stamp](#) - DEC is requesting proposals for grants that will fund projects aimed at improving fish and wildlife habitat and public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and other fish and wildlife related recreation and study.
- [Pollution Prevention Starts at Home](#) - Tips you can use to prevent pollution at home
- [Pollution Prevention Tips for Pressure Treated Wood](#) - Industry has made a voluntary decision to stop using wood preservatives containing arsenic for residential lumber products by December 31, 2003. This tip strip lists ways consumers can protect themselves from the potential risks of exposure to toxic chemicals in pressure- treated wood.
- [Tips to Help Your Environment](#) - Easy tips to help the environment

- [Trail Supporter Patch](#) - The public may support trail maintenance projects across the state by purchasing the \$5 patch.