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What they think Area leaders weigh in

## Going green makes good sense

Lori Cunniff

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If I were to have only one goal for 2009, I would focus on environmental education. Our citizens must understand that environmental protection can bring about a more sustainable, healthy and economically prosperous community. It is not just fashionable to be "green," but it also makes sense in these tough economic times.

Our water supply is a good example, as it is a limited, valuable natural resource. Practicing water conservation can, on a community scale, protect wetland habitats and ensure a future water supply that allows us to grow as a community. For the individual, it can save money. Our daily actions impact the world we live in. Something as simple as fertilizer application can be a source of water-quality impairment when done improperly. Correct application saves money for the individual and the community. Impaired water bodies are expensive to restore, and, of course, good water quality is important for health, home values and our overall quality of life.

Clean air is another natural resource we take for granted. Air quality is impacted by our choice of transportation, electrical consumption and even how we lay out our communities and work locations.

So you can see how important it is that all of our citizens and visitors understand the value of environmental protection. It's a big goal, so I had best get started, and I'll need your help.

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