

# HS<sup>3</sup>™

## Sustainable Summer Tips

### Outside Summer Fun in Your Yard

- Make the most of runoff water to grow your plants-plant a rain garden.
- Lawn care-use organic fertilizers and weed control
- Plant native species that require less water. Native plants attract birds and butterflies and require less water.
- Buy a rain barrel and use the water for your garden. Did you know that a rain barrel on a 2000 sq ft home can capture as much as 36,000 gallons of water a year?
- Increase the biodiversity of your yard by planting tall trees, small trees, bushes and plants.
- Make your yard a pesticide-free haven for birds. Get your grandchildren interested in bird watching. Hang up a bird feeder, build a bird house.
- Replace parts of your lawn with no mow grass or groundcovers.
- Mulch around plants to cut down on evaporation.
- Plant trees that can provide shade and lower your energy costs.
- Water plants only in the early evening or early morning hours. Did you know that 32% of residential outdoor water is used for lawn care-this comes to almost 8 billion gallons of water a day in the US? Your sprinkler uses 264 gallons of water an hour.
- Buy a clothes line and use it.
- Visit your neighborhood farmer's market for fresh fruits and vegetables. Plant a kitchen garden for herbs, vegetables.
- ***Slow down and enjoy the summer season.***

