

# GREENTIP OF THE MONTH

JULY



## BE COOL NATURALLY

### BEING COOL NATURALLY IS TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE



Amphibians are considered to be indicator species for environmental issues, and for good reason. They are the first to show signs of a failing environment due to their porous skin and dual habitats (land and water). Increasing desertification of land, caused by climate change and deforestation, means less space for them to live. Runoffs from manufacturing plants and rising water temperatures caused by cooling systems at power plants irrevocably alter the water that amphibians call home, often making them susceptible to diseases. Chytridiomycosis, also known as chytrid, is a highly contagious, often deadly fungal disease affecting amphibians all over the world. Here in California, the Mountain Yellow Legged Frog has been hit hard by this disease, with populations dropping over 90% in the past decade. Oakland Zoo, in conjunction with San Francisco Zoo, National Parks Service, and US Fish and Wildlife, has been working diligently to come up with a solution and bolster their numbers in the wild. Be conscious about your energy usage and we can ensure that these frogs have a healthy home to come back to!



## YOU CAN TOO

TIPS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

### EASY WAYS TO BE COOL & CONSERVE

- **Regulate.** Set your thermostat to 76°F for cooling and only while people are home.
- **Circulate.** Use ceiling fans to promote air circulation.
- **Utilize cool nights.** Keep your windows open at night to let in the cool air, and be sure to close windows and draw the shades before it starts to warm up.
- **Lighten up.** Light colored clothing reflects heat that darker colors will absorb, and loose clothing allows airflow.
- **Go out.** Give your AC a rest and use someone else's! Spend the hotter hours of your day out of the house, enjoying air-conditioned locations such as the grocery store or movie theaters.
- **Utilize nature.** Use trees or shrubbery to shade your windows to keep heat out, and visit naturally cooler places such as the beach or the woods.



### GET THE FACTS

- Heating, cooling and ventilation accounts for 40 % of the energy use in a typical office.
- Air conditioner use in the US results in an average of about 100 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants every year.
- As summer demand for electricity to cool homes and businesses kicks into high gear, power plants often plan to shut down when supply shortages trigger controlled blackouts and brownouts.



CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY OF  
CALIFORNIA  
TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

OAKLAND ZOO