

## Drying for Freedom

A new movement is afoot—one that is fighting to reclaim one of the rights some of us may not realize we no longer had...the right to dry clothes naturally. That's right. The simple task of drying your clothes on an outdoor clothesline has been banned for nearly 50 million homes in the U.S. (many in planned communities and developments).

A new documentary due out next year aims to explore this very issue and raise awareness of the cost and energy savings of depending less on our electric dryers. Called "Drying for Freedom: A Film About Clotheslines," the film is a low-budget, independent production by White Lantern Film Co. Director Steven Lake and Producer Adam J Merrifield take on a seemingly obscure topic which, upon further investigation, surrounds the five billion dollars spent on clothes drying each year in the U.S. and our basic freedom of choice.

Still in the works, the film touts itself as the "...inconvenient truth about clotheslines, the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of our freedom of choice" and says it could be the "end of the line for our energy love affair." It explores how line-drying has become such an "environmental social catastrophe" and starts with 1950's post-war America where, according to the film's website ([www.dryingforfreedom.com](http://www.dryingforfreedom.com)), "corporations profited from domestic growth and increased our reliance on labor-saving, energy-consuming white goods."

Featured in the film is the non-profit organization Project Laundry List, founded by Alexander Lee. The group educates people across the country about how simple lifestyle changes can reduce our dependence on environmentally and culturally costly habits. You can check out more about this organization at [www.laundrylist.org](http://www.laundrylist.org).

Hmmm....I'm intrigued and can't wait to see the film. I'll keep you posted on production and any chances of viewing it in Central Ohio. Thanks to Sheila F. for the tip!

In the meantime, if your neighborhood restrictions allow, consider the benefits of busting out a clothesline on a nice sunny day and giving your dryer a break (you can even use indoor clothes racks on rainy days or if you aren't permitted to hang clothes outside). You can check out all sorts of tips and benefits online—just do a search on drying clothes outside. I especially like the article titled "The Benefits of Line Drying Laundry" featured on [beingfrugal.net](http://beingfrugal.net) in a series called Tightwad Tuesday (why didn't I think of that?). The writer points out that line drying saves you money, saves the earth some energy, gets you outside, and preserves your clothes.

Not everyone is happy about seeing clotheslines popping up...some say it is unsightly. But clotheslines are making a come back...how do you feel about it?

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