

Let's Go Green

What does it mean to go green? Why should we do it?

The natural resources of the Earth are limited. The Earth has only so much gas, oil, trees, and water. At the same time, there are many people in the world. People use resources every day. Some people are afraid we will run out of resources. Going green means using fewer resources. It means using resources that can be made again easily.

How can you help? Here are ten really good ways to start.



Ten Ways to Go Green

#1: Save water. You can use water wisely. One way is to take shorter showers. If you shorten your shower by one minute a day, you can save 150 gallons a month. That's a lot of water! Also, turn off the water as you brush your teeth. Last, make sure you turn off the water when you leave the bathroom. Drippy faucets can waste a lot of water.



#2: Turn things off. We use a lot of electricity in our homes. We run fans with it. Our televisions use it. Electricity comes from resources like oil, water, and wind power. We need to conserve it. Turn off lights when you leave a room. Turn off the television when you're not watching it. If you use less electricity, you'll save power for other things.



#3: Turn the heat down. We heat our homes with oil, gas, or electricity. Why not turn down the thermostat? It will save energy. Wear a sweater instead. You'll still be warm, but you'll save Earth's resources.



#4: Walk, don't drive. Walk to the market. Bike to school. Gas burns when people drive cars. You can help the Earth when you walk. You also save money from the gas you don't burn!



#5: Buy less bottled water. Bottled water comes in plastic. This plastic pollutes the Earth. Bottled water is often no better than water from your faucet. Fill up a metal container before you leave the house. It helps the Earth and the wallet, too!



#6: Recycle. You can recycle paper, plastic, glass, and metal. Why recycle? Plastic bottles are made from oil products. The less plastic we use, the less oil we burn. To make glass, we have to use energy, too. Recycling glass helps save resources. Paper is made from trees. It takes a lot of trees to make paper. It takes a lot of energy, too.



#7: Reuse. Instead of throwing away clothes, donate them. What is useless to you is useful to someone else! Our clothes are not old. We are just tired of them or we have outgrown them. Give them to someone who can use them. You could even have a clothing swap with friends! Also, find other uses for things, instead of throwing them away. Try to use everything at least two times. For example, do you have a sock with holes? Use it for dusting and cleaning!



#8: Reduce. One great way to go green is to use less. Think about the things you use every day. What can you use less of?



#9: Volunteer. Most towns have clean-up days. People clean up parks, highways, and riverbanks. Volunteer and help out. You can meet your friends there. Or you can make new ones!



#10: Write a Letter. Earth's resources are not limitless. Write a letter to someone in the government. Tell them how you feel about saving the Earth. Make others aware of the problems. It's the only way to create change!

