

Target Keyword: 12 Easy Ways to Go Green
Word Count: 691
Page Title: 12 Easy Ways to Go Green

Small adjustments in lifestyle routines can lead to big changes, particularly when it comes to the environment. The following list details 12 easy ways to go green. Not only will you decrease your impact on the earth, but you'll also save a few dollars and create a healthier home.

Change your light bulbs

One of the simplest, quickest ways to save both energy and money at home is by installing compact, fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). These light bulbs turn most of their energy into light as opposed to heat, using approximately 75 percent less electricity. They also last up to 10 times longer.

Skip the bottled water

Bottled water is expensive and creates large quantities of container waste. Purchase a water filter and purify tap water. When you need water with you at school or work, put it in a reusable water bottle, preferably made of aluminum.

Unplug appliances with LED lights

Appliances that glow after you turn them off continue to use power including phone chargers, TVs, and printers. Instead of plugging these devices directly into wall sockets, plug them into power strips, which you can turn off easily when you're not using them.

Don't throw away your electronics

Make use of your computers, cell phones, and additional electronic devices for as long as possible. When it comes time to get rid of them, look for opportunities to recycle or donate them appropriately. Consult with the Consumer Electronics Association for recycling resources in your area.

Make your own cleaning supplies

There are a wide variety of cleaning products that you can make at home with simple, readily available ingredients such as vinegar, baking soda, soap, and lemon. These cleaning supplies are non-toxic and just as effective, if not more effective, than store bought products.

Fix your leaky faucets

A dripping faucet can waste nearly 75 gallons of water daily, and a toilet with a leak can waste up to 200 gallons daily. Repairing a leaky toilet can save a home \$30 and 73,000 gallons of water annually.

Keep your grass long

Isn't it neat that one of the 12 easy ways to go green simply means less work for you and your family? Spending less time on your lawn actually results in a greener lawn, both aesthetically and in terms of the environment. Most varieties of grass allow for a regular length of two and a half inches.

Choose Energy Star label appliances

Are you in the market for new household appliances? Look for products that boast Energy Star labels, which guarantee energy efficiency. Many Energy Star purchases also come with tax credit eligibility. Typically, a household with a majority of Energy Star appliances uses approximately 30 percent less energy than a standard household, which comes with a yearly savings of around \$570.

Run full dishwasher and washing machine loads

It can be tempting to wash just a few dishes or articles of clothing at a time instead of building up full loads. However, this practice wastes power, water, and money. The average household in the United States washes approximately 540 loads of laundry and over 150 loads of dishes annually, which amounts to more than 22,000 gallons of water. Whenever possible, run full loads on short cycles with cold or warm as opposed to hot water.

Adjust your thermostat a few degrees

The average American household spends 50 to 60 percent of their energy budget on heating and cooling. Every degree that you lower your thermostat in the winter and raise it in the summer can save you between one and three percent on energy.

Stop your junk mail

In the United States, we use approximately 28 billion gallons of water and 100 million trees annually to send junk mail. Register with the Direct Marketing Association Website's Mail Preference Service for the fee of just \$1 to stop up to 75 percent of your unsolicited mail. The majority of the mail will stop within 90 days.

Print on both sides of the page

Even though many software programs have an option for printing on both sides of the paper, most people still opt to print on just one side. Make the switch in your printing preferences, and you'll never look back.