

# Editorial: Go Green

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Copy Editor

The economy is not in its greatest shape, but there are ways to be efficient with money and energy that may not come to mind immediately. Producing less waste is also a goal with the many landfills covering our planet. Chemicals and other harmful substances can harm the ecosystem, so why are there not more people aware or interested in changing their lifestyles? Here are a few tips in improving one's impact on our planet that is inhabited by billions.

A major step towards going green that everyone can take part in is recycling. I am sure that there are many

things that just seem easier to throw away rather than take the time to recycle, but it really makes a difference with such an insufficient number of people actually recycling. It can be done with the smallest of things. One can recycle the bags from the grocery store, plastic, cans, paper, glass, even cell phones and other electronic devices. With the internet at our fingertips, why not search for the most convenient place to leave these articles. Cell phones, for example, can be put to good use for individuals who may need one due to critical circumstances.

Not all things have to be recycled; there are many objects that can be reused or donated. A well-known saying states that one person's

trash is another one's treasure. Most people throw things away, because they no longer serve use in their homes. Yet someone else may be in search for the same thing. Buying a reusable bag can last for a long period of time and serve no need for plastic bags that will end in a landfill eventually.

A few other things that can be done around the house do not take much time and effort. For example, changing the light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL)

may cost a little more than the typical bulbs, but its benefits will show over a period of time. Along with energy efficient light bulbs, turning them off is also very important. Most leave the lights turned on all



throughout the house after leaving a room. Just get into the habit of flipping the light switch off before leaving a room.

When taking show-

ers, it is better to make them shorter. If that is not likely, there are also water efficient showerheads. It does not take long for someone to brush his or her teeth, but if the water is running during the process, it is wasting a lot of water. When doing laundry, it is more suitable to wash a larger amount of laundry in one load. This wastes less water contrary to doing two or three loads of laundry. It is also helpful to set

the washing machine to cold or warm rather than hot. It is little things that can add up and really make a difference, not only on the environment but on bills too.

Polluting the Earth directly is certainly not acceptable. Throwing random objects out of the window of a car is wrong. It takes several hundred years for a plastic bottle or an aluminum can to even begin to decompose. Littering is just an unpleasing sight. Disposing of garbage properly just takes a little extra time. Living in a clean town is more preferable than the opposite.

Doing one's part is critical to the maintenance of the environment. Having a more positive impact or less total impact should be an important goal. Taking a little time to consider changing one's lifestyle is a start. Researching and putting it in action should be a final goal for each individual. Soon, it will come naturally and the benefits will show in the long haul.

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