



12 Ways for Adults to be GREEN

1. Think conservation when you shop.

Buy items that have minimal packaging. Whenever possible, buy products in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging. Bring your own shopping bags to the grocery store. Buy products containing recycled materials to complete the recycling loop.

2. When shopping, choose organic and locally grown foods.

By choosing foods that are grown locally, you are reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles needed to transport food and you are supporting local farmers and your local economy. By buying organic, you are purchasing food that has not been subject to fertilizers and pesticides that can be harmful to our bodies and our environment.

3. Make smart seafood choices.

Many of the world's fisheries are depleted. Be an informed consumer and purchase fish only from fisheries that promote a sustainable harvest. For a current list of smart seafood choices, visit http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/sfw_regional.asp.

4. Install energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

By installing compact fluorescent light bulbs and energy-saving appliances, you can save big money on your electric bills and help the environment. Using less electricity is good for the earth and your wallet. Another perk—compact fluorescent light bulbs last up to four times as long as traditional bulbs.

5. Use your car wisely.

In today's society, we need our cars to get around. But do we need them as much as we use them? Consider walking or riding a bike short distances. (This is much easier if you live close to where you work.) Use public transportation when available. And, when driving, don't allow your car to idle. If your car is parked and you are waiting, turn off the engine until you are ready to ride again.

6. Think about the best way to wash your car.

Bring your car to a drive-through or manual car wash that recycles and reuses its water before sending it to a sanitary sewer. If you wash your car at home, choose a grass or gravel surface. When you wash your car on concrete, the soapy runoff goes directly into the storm sewer and then into rivers, lakes, and oceans. By washing your car on grass or gravel, water soaks into the ground. This process also naturally filters soap from the water, reducing the amount of soap that enters rivers and streams.

7. Vote!

Let lawmakers know your opinions on legislation that affects wildlife, air quality, water quality, public lands, and more. Protecting our environment is something that we need to do together.

8. Be a smart pet owner.

Not all animals are good pets. It takes special training and a great deal of time to care for exotic animals. Some pet stores may sell parrots, snakes, and other animals that have been captured in the wild. The loss of these animals from their native habitats can harm that ecosystem. And the illegal pet trade is one reason that some species are threatened or endangered in the wild. If you have training to care for exotic animals, carefully check that any animals you buy were bred in captivity and not taken from the wild.

9. Use fertilizer and pesticides cautiously.

Runoff from lawn fertilizers can be damaging to rivers, lakes, and oceans and the animals and plants that live in those habitats. Make wise choices about your yard. Think of the earth first.

10. Prevent erosion.

By making wise landscaping choices, you can help prevent erosion of your land. Use native plants to anchor the soil in your yard. Many nurseries will be able to provide you with a list of native plants and trees that will prevent erosion and attract wildlife to your backyard. As a bonus, native plants require less fertilizer and watering.

11. Share your information about helping the environment with others.

By talking with friends and family about how we can help the environment, you are doing one of the most important jobs of all. Teaching others and sharing your joy in wildlife and natural habitats is a great way to inspire caring.

12. Support zoos, aquariums, and wildlife conservation organizations.

Most of us have a zoo or aquarium close by. American Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) organizations work diligently for conservation of wildlife and wild places. Your support helps them with this great cause.