

Good2MeGood4MeGood4Earth: How to Make it Earth Day EVERYDAY

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Since 1970, Earth Day has been a global movement to make environmental friendly choices on April 22 each year. The goal is to stop our poisoning of the earth God gave us. Since CREATION, God has mandated that man (humans) take care of the earth as an example of good stewardship of our environment. The theme for 2018 Earth Day is to End Plastic Pollution.

Did you know that China, the largest receiver of recyclable products has banned receipt of recyclable materials ("foreign waste") since January 2018? This means that the majority of the recyclables from the US, Canada, Ireland, Germany now have no home. Does this mean we stop recycling? NO! NO! NO! It means we must be better stewards of the earth and REDUCE our use of plastic and live as if we have been charged with stewardship of our planet until Jesus returns. It means we must support US companies that use recyclable materials to produce the products such as reusable grocery shopping bags, toothbrushes, bottles, paper.

Why should I care? If you love the beach (as I do) you will want a clean natural environment and not one laden with plastic waste or high bacteria levels. In 2016 and 2017 Myrtle Beach, SC had several unsafe swimming warnings issued due to high bacteria levels caused by storm water waste. Less than 23% of plastic waste is recyclable. This means the majority does not break down and remains in our landfills and oceans for hundreds of years. But Jesus is coming soon so why should I care? I do not wish to be like the servant given the 1 talent who wasted his time using fear as an excuse and not being a good steward to use that talent to do good for his master. Stewardship begins with the belief that God wants me to care for the planet he so lovingly made. Caring for the Earth is also Good2Me and Good4Me

- In 2016, world plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons.
- It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans
- 4 trillion (1,000,000,000,000) plastic bags are used worldwide each year but only 1% are returned for recycling.
- There are 3,091 active landfills in the U.S. However landfills liners can leak and spread waste and bacteria into our oceans and water sources.

START!

How can I start making a change that is Good2Me (convenient), Good4Me Good4Earth?








1. Bring your own reusable bags to the grocery store.
2. Return your plastic grocery bags to recycling centers. Some are available at grocery stores such as Food Lion.
3. Make sure to properly recycle and sort products if required by your area
4. Use recycled products such as recycled paper when making purchases for office or home use
5. Use reusable containers such as glass, ceramic, stainless steel for food storage
6. Buy and use a good reusable bottle for water. Glass and stainless steel are great affordable convenient options in a variety of sizes -even ones suitable for lunchboxes.
7. Find reusable alternatives for food items that are individually wrapped or packaged. Those 100-calorie packs are terrible for the environment, even though they help with portion control. (www.beezero.com)
8. Buy in bulk and store in reusable containers
9. Reuse containers. My washed and cleaned empty ketchup squirt bottle makes a great toilet bowl cleaner container (baking soda, natural soap, salt, essential oil) to clean

10. Make your own natural cleaners using inexpensive items such as vinegar, baking soda, salt, soda ash to reduce not only the toxic effects in your home but also in our water supply
11. Purchase reusable strong inert plastics such as one with recycling code #5 (polypropylene:PP)
12. Clean your recyclable containers before placing in your recycling bin
13. Compost your food scraps.
14. Start a garden. If space is limited, use a container garden
15. Use heirloom or organic seeds when possible to avoid GMO in your garden.
16. Start a Terracycle fundraising project to recycle and make money for your group

Good2MeGood4Me Earth Day 2018 Word Search

V U T A E O H E O E S G R N K
 T P J S C S A J L E T A E D F
 V K I E O R U C I L A B D C R
 B I A H T P Y E C C I Y U Q A
 L N N H S C M I R Y N R C Y K
 S O D E A D M O R C L E E B I
 J A V R G A R E C E E C D P C
 Y T R E R A T A U R S O S O H
 Z E Q E V A R L W B S R S L Y
 T K C I W N H P M E S G A L E
 B A K I N G S O D A T F L U M
 D N E D R A G Q V N E S G T J
 L L I F D N A L V Q E C O I U
 P L A S T I C L B U L K D O P
 E D O C G N I L C Y C E R N E

Check out the Earth Day Plastic calculator to see where you use the most plastic. This will help give you a starting point to reduce use. <https://www.earthday.org/plastic-calculator/>

Symbol	Acronym	Full name and uses
	PET	Polyethylene terephthalate - Fizzy drink bottles and frozen ready meal packages.
	HDPE	High-density polyethylene - Milk and washing-up liquid bottles
	PVC	Polyvinyl chloride - Food trays, cling film, bottles for squash, mineral water and shampoo.
	LDPE	Low density polyethylene - Carrier bags and bin liners.
	PP	Polypropylene - Margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays.
	PS	Polystyrene - Yoghurt pots, foam meat or fish trays, hamburger boxes and egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys.
	Other	Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories. For example melamine often used in plastic plates and cups.

BAKING SODA
 COMPOST
 GLASS
 LANDFILL
 PLASTIC
 RECYCLING CODE
 STAINLESS STEEL

BULK
 EARTH DAY
 GOD
 LOVE
 POLLUTION
 REDUCE
 STEWARDSHIP

CERAMIC
 GARDEN
 GROCERY BAG
 OCEANS
 RECYCLE
 REUSE
 TERRACYCLE

Resources

- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/10/every-minute-one-garbage-truck-of-plastic-is-dumped-into-our-oceans/>
- <https://www.earthday.org/earthday/toolkits/>