



Crusader Missions

Simple tips to conserve energy and help reverse the affects of global warming.

Daily Tips Everyone Can Do

- ➔ Conserve water! Turn off the faucet while soaping your hands, washing dishes, washing the car, or hand-washing clothes. Turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth can save almost 5 gallons of water.
- ➔ Save trees by conserving paper. Use both sides of the paper when writing, drawing, and computer printing and use recycled paper products!
- ➔ Remember – don't stand there with the refrigerator door open! Decide what you want before you open it. Every time you open it, 30% of the cooled air escapes.
- ➔ Reuse as many school supplies as you can each year rather than buying all new products. And if you have to buy new products, look for recycled ones.
- ➔ Switch off lights you don't need, especially when you leave a room, and use daylight wherever possible. Don't play with lights (like turning them off and on).
- ➔ Turn off and unplug TVs, video games and other electronics when you're not using them. And don't forget to unplug those little transformer boxes that charge cell phones, cameras, and other electronics when you're not using them. They use almost 10% of your home's electricity.
- ➔ Ride a bike or walk! Your family car will contribute less to greenhouse gases and it's good for you, too.
- ➔ Take shorter showers. A 5-minute shower uses 12 to 25 gallons of water, while a bathtub holds 70 gallons of water.
- ➔ Don't play with running water. Use a tub of water on a hot day for playing instead of leaving the garden hose running.
- ➔ Do your next science fair project on global warming and teach your classmates how they can help reduce greenhouse gases.

Try These With a Grown-up

- ➔ Be a water leak detective and find those leaky faucets. A dripping faucet can lose up to 5 gallons of water a day, which wastes energy and water.
- ➔ Replace standard light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent bulbs. They use 75-80% less energy, and last up to 13 times longer!
- ➔ Plant trees! They absorb carbon dioxide, a big part of greenhouse gases, and they provide shade.
- ➔ Fill 'em up! Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full, and wash your clothes in cold or warm water.
- ➔ Sort the mail with a grown-up. Before throwing away unwanted catalogs and flyers have an adult call the company or write an email or letter to be removed from their list.
- ➔ Stop buying individual portions and food that comes in a lot of packaging. Instead, buy larger sizes and make your own portions in reusable plastic containers, not plastic bags.
- ➔ Help your refrigerator run efficiently. Close the door tightly, keep the coils in back clean, and don't overfill it.
- ➔ Check for air leaks and drafts in your home. When you plug those leaks, you can increase the energy efficiency in your home by as much as 30%.
- ➔ In the winter, turn down your heat by 5°F (3°C). You will decrease your home's energy consumption by 5-7%.
- ➔ Recycle printer ink cartridges. There are many organizations that will recycle these and donate money to your school.
- ➔ Whenever possible, hang clothes to dry rather than using the clothes dryer. The clothes dryer consumes the most energy of all household appliances.
- ➔ If you have an older toilet, place a plastic jug filled with sand in the tank. You'll save 1-2 gallons (3.5 – 7.5 liters) of water every time you flush and you'll save energy, too.
- ➔ Bring reusable bags when you visit the grocery instead of using more plastic and paper bags. And help carry them!