



# Protect the Planet

Leaving on lights and electrical equipment when they're not needed is a big waste of energy. Leaky faucets waste valuable water. Even throwing out your garbage the wrong way can cause problems for the environment. See how being wasteful in your home affects the world around you.

## Energy

**Problem:** Some areas of the U.S. are experiencing energy shortages. Scientists believe there could be more shortages across the country in the future. That's because most electricity comes from coal, and America's coal supply is running out. Scientists believe our coal supply will run out within 50 years.

**How You Can Help:** Turn off lights and other electrical items when you're not using them. Also, keep the refrigerator door closed - and know what you want to eat or drink before you open the door.

## Water

**Problem:** We all need water to live, but there isn't always enough of it for everybody. Some areas have less water than others, and any area can experience a water shortage. Each American uses about 183 gallons of freshwater every day! That's a lot of water, so wasting any of it is bad for people, plants, and animals.

**How You Can Help:** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. You can also take shorter showers, fill the bathtub halfway for a bath, and make sure your faucets aren't leaking.

## Recycle

**Problem:** Many problems arise when we mix recyclables, or items that can be reused, with other garbage. When recyclables such as newspapers and plastic bottles are not separated, they cannot be reused to make other items. Also, unseparated recyclables are either burned, which pollutes the air, or they are dumped in a landfill. Landfills take up a lot of space.

**How You Can Help:** Place recyclables in their assigned bins, and empty the bins at a recycling center. These recyclables can be made into other items, such as doormats and park benches. Also, use lunch bags more than once.



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