

Things You Can Do to Help the Environment

Look at the pictures. Which show environmental problems? Which show solutions?



CARS

Cars are getting bigger. SUVs—large, truck-like vehicles—are now the most popular cars in the United States. Bigger vehicles burn more gas and increase air pollution. So try to walk, bicycle, or use public transportation. If you drive a car, keep it tuned up. This saves gas and reduces pollution.

ENERGY

The biggest use of home energy is for heating and cooling. So turn up your air conditioner and turn down the heat, especially at night. Replace regular lightbulbs with bulbs that use less energy. And remember to turn lights off.



PRODUCTS

Each American throws away about 1.8 kilograms (4 pounds) of garbage every day. Most of it goes into landfills. Reduce waste before you buy by asking yourself: Do I need this? Is it something I can only use once? Buy products that you can use over and over again. And try to buy products made from recycled materials.

WATER

Showers use a lot of water. In one week, a typical American family uses as much water as a person drinks in three years! Buy a special "low-flow" showerhead or take shorter showers. This can cut water use in half. Also, fix any leaky faucets.

A Read the article. Where do you think it is from? Check (✓) the correct answer.

- ☐ a textbook ☐ an encyclopedia ☐ a magazine ☐ an advertisement

B Read these statements. Then write the advice from the article that each person should follow.

- Stephanie always takes long showers in the morning.
- In the winter, Ralph keeps the heat turned up all day.
- Matt buys a newspaper every day, but never reads it.
- Stuart drives to work, but his office is near his home.
- Sheila leaves the lights on at home all the time.

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C GROUP WORK What other ways do you know about to help the environment?

The biggest and the best! ■ 97