

# **40 Practical Ways We Can Positively Impact the Environment Now**

## **Small Steps Toward a Big Change**

**List developed by Heather Salazar's Fall 2007 Ethics Classes**

1. Take your name off the junk mailing lists
2. Recycle, cut back on use of paper and plastics (especially notebook/computer paper and individually-bottled drinks), and use recycled products
3. Put recycling bins on each floor of each residence hall
4. Carpool
5. Take shorter showers, turn off the water when brushing teeth, and don't wash the car in the rainy season
6. Forgo or decrease the amount of unnecessary or luxury goods
7. Buy a low pollution car. There are options besides that standard gasoline-electric hybrid (i.e. Prius) that use bioethanol or biodiesel as fuel. There are also cars in planning that have interiors made completely from biofabric materials.
8. Buy a car that gets good gas mileage
9. Buy and use energy efficient appliances
10. Conserve energy by turning off lights when leaving the room and unplugging appliances not in use
11. Walk or ride a bike instead of driving when possible. (It's healthy, too!)
12. Don't litter and clean up anything that is considered litter
13. Use both sides of paper when writing
14. Become a vegetarian or eat less meat to help animals and the environment.
15. Help developing countries by donating a little money each year to help their country
16. Help a person in need
17. Use [www.blackle.com](http://www.blackle.com) as a primary search engine; it saves electricity by using a black background instead of the traditional white to display information.
18. Use daylight to light the house during the day

19. Use reusable dishes instead of plastic utensils and styrofoam plates/cups. (It saves money too)
20. Bring your own bags when shopping instead of using paper or plastic
21. Use energy efficient light bulbs/dimmer switches or daylight when available
22. Use less harmful cleaners (i.e. instead of Clorox cleanup, grease lightning, Mr. Green, etc. use a 1:3 mixture of vinegar to water)
23. Plant a tree or a garden
24. Instead of not eating meat at all, try to constrict yourself from eating a certain type of meat; EX: veal (butchered baby cow)
25. Instead of throwing away old clothes (and if you're too lazy to donate) recycle them and make them into something else; EX: jean purse, patch pants, or even jewelry.
26. Use synthetic over the real thing; EX: Fur clothing, hair weaves, and gator shoes.
27. Let hair dry naturally instead of blow-drying it
28. Pick up stray animals to help them get a home or bring them to a no-kill shelter
29. Become involved in an organization dedicated to saving an endangered species
30. Talk to others to help raise awareness about the effects of global warming
31. Donate to important causes
32. Spay and neuter pets
33. Try to not buy products that are made by corporations that contribute significantly to global warming or treat their workers badly (sweatshops)
34. Do not leave appliances constantly turned on
35. Only wash full loads when doing laundry
36. Buy humanely raised farm products
37. Try and not waste as much food; there are so many hungry people in the world
38. Be more aware of what our government is allowing with big businesses in regards to pollution
39. Volunteer to clean up parks/rivers
40. Educate others with the valuable information that we know. This way they can help in the cause also