

50 Easy Ways to Care for Creation

1. *Avoid single-use products such as plastic or Styrofoam cups, bottles, cutlery and straws.*
2. *Use reusable bags for shopping. Recycle plastic bags at most grocery stores.*
3. *Refill a reusable water container instead of buying bottled water.*
4. *Ride a bike or walk instead of driving.*
5. *Buy fair trade products that are ethically and sustainably sourced.*
6. *Turn off the car engine if sitting idle for more than 10 seconds.*
7. *Use washable napkins at mealtimes.*
8. *Bring your own coffee mug to the local café. Some even give discounts.*
9. *Take part in a community garden. Save unused water for plants.*
10. *Carpool with a group to an event.*
11. *Buy only what you need. Buy local. Buy ethical. Buy organic.*
12. *Organize a neighborhood cleanup on your street or community party.*
13. *Choose energy-certified appliances and products.*
14. *Go to the library instead of buying books, DVDs and CDs.*
15. *Start a compost bin in your backyard.*
16. *Buy produce/goods with little or no packaging.*
17. *Rent a boat without a motor—a kayak, rowboat or canoe—and get some exercise.*
18. *Reduce junk mail by opting out. Go paperless and subscribe online.*
19. *Pick up litter when you see it.*
20. *Donate unwanted blankets, towels, pillows or stuffed toys to an animal shelter.*
21. *Water your grass at cooler times of the day, such as in the morning or evening.*
22. *Minimize water use when brushing teeth, cleaning and washing dishes.*
23. *Be mindful of animals and their habitats when exploring the outdoors. Do not touch or remove them.*
24. *Ban Styrofoam. It contains a known carcinogen.*
25. *Use plant-based products.*

26. *Plan a volunteer or ecologically focused vacation.*
27. *Buy wood products, cards and paper FSC-certified or responsibly sourced.*
28. *Buy fresh, local, unpackaged food with real ingredients and no chemicals.*
29. *Take unwanted clothing and other items to a donation center.*
30. *Recycle used electronics and video games. ([bestbuy.com/recycle](https://www.bestbuy.com/recycle))*
31. *Have a picnic with reusable plateware and utensils and cloth napkins.*
32. *If you can't recycle it, don't buy it.*
33. *Avoid gas spills, yard chemicals and street runoff that goes to storm drains.*
34. *Donate unwanted furniture to a refugee center or [Habitat.org/restores](https://www.habitat.org/restores)*
35. *Dispose of hazardous cleaning agents, oils and paints at hazardous drop-off or recycling centers*
36. *Repurpose used hand wipes for housecleaning chores.*
37. *Buy from companies with eco-friendly, sustainable and ethical practices.*
38. *Buy free-range eggs or local farm eggs, meat and even milk. Check out local delivery options from local farms.*
39. *Donate unused paint to a school or charity project. Dispose of it properly, not in sinks or drains.*
40. *For Halloween and costume parties, make your own with vintage or borrowed items.*
41. *Supply a recycle bin at your next community event.*
42. *Use natural wrap, reusable fabric or recycled material for wrapping gifts. Avoid metallic decor paper; it is not recyclable.*
43. *Frequent restaurants that offer fresh foods from local farms.*
44. *Try a mixture of vinegar and water with lemon for a fresh, biodegradable cleaning agent.*
45. *Subscribe to [Earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com) for the latest news on recycling.*
46. *Recycle or dispose of batteries properly; they may have toxic contents.*
47. *Buy plates, cups and utensils made from earth-friendly, sustainable or plant-based materials.*
48. *Recycle old appliances, vacuum cleaners, answering machines and more at your electronic retailer.*
49. *Take baths less frequently and shorten your shower time.*
50. *Learn about ecological impacts at [earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes](https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes)*