

Save Our Environment

Homework Assignment

Name _____

Several Weeks ago, our class had a presentation from CPAWS, an organization which is taking action on saving our environment. As part of our commitment to making a difference on behalf of the world we are doing the following class project. We are asking each family in our class to indicate which items below you are now doing or will commit to doing to help the environment and animals threatened by human activity.

Please place a check mark beside all the items from the list below which your family is doing or will commit to doing regularly. Our goal is to achieve a total of 250 action items from below as our commitment – an average of 10 per family.

In Your Home....

- Recycle paper, plastic, metal, glass and cardboard.
- Save kitchen scraps for the compost pile.
- Try to use phosphate-free laundry and dish soap.
- Avoid the use of household pesticides – a fly swatter or rolled paper works as well.
- Use cold water in the washer unless it's necessary to use warm or hot.
- Use washable rags, not paper towels, for cleaning spills and other household chores.
- Use newspaper and vinegar for washing windows.
- Use cloth diapers – the plastic in disposable diapers doesn't break down in landfills.
- Use cloth, not paper napkins.
- Don't put hazardous substances down your drain or in your trash.
- Don't use electrical appliances for things you can easily do by hand.
- Reuse bread bags and containers to store foods instead of plastic wraps and foil.
- Stop accepting unwanted junk mail.
- Take unwanted, re-useable items to a charitable organization or thrift shop.
- Don't leave water running needlessly.
- Install a water saving shower head or toilet.
- Set your water heater at about 60 C (medium)
- Lower your house temperature and wear a sweater.

In Your Yard....

- Start a compost pile to compost your leaves and yard debris.
- Plant trees and shrubs that provide food and shelter for birds and other creatures.
- Feed the birds or put up bird houses and baths.
- Pull weeds instead of using herbicides.
- Learn about natural insect controls as alternatives to pesticides.



- ❑ Landscape with plants that aren't prone to insect and fungus problems.
- ❑ Ignore caterpillars and other leaf chewing insects. Birds and predators control them.
- ❑ Use beer traps for slugs instead of baiting with poison.
- ❑ Use organic fertilizers, manure or zoo doo to help condition your soil and fertilize it at the same time.
- ❑ If you use pesticides, herbicides or fungicides, don't throw leftovers in the trash, down your drain or into a storm sewer. Dispose of them in a hazardous waste collection site.
- ❑ Use mulch to conserve water in your garden.
- ❑ Plant things that don't require too much water.
- ❑ Take extra plastic and rubber pots back to the nursery.
- ❑ Large expanses of lawn are not a good habitat for most creatures, and they must be maintained with chemicals and extensive watering. Dig up some grass and plant native shrubs or trees instead.
- ❑ Plant short, dense shrubs close to your home's foundation to help insulate against the cold.

Travelling....

- ❑ Turn down the heat and turn off the water heater before you go away.
- ❑ Carry reusable cups, dishes and flatware.
- ❑ Don't pick flowers or collect wild creatures for pets. Leave animals and plants where you find them.
- ❑ Watch out for wildlife! Be considerate of all living things you see crossing the road.
- ❑ Build smaller camp fires.
- ❑ Stay on the trail.
- ❑ Drive sensibly...don't waste gas.
- ❑ Keep your car tuned up or buy a more gas efficient car.
- ❑ Carpool, use public transit, ride your bike or walk instead.
- ❑ Recycle your engine oil, old tires, etc.
- ❑ Keep your tires properly inflated to save gas and keep your wheels in alignment to save your tires.
- ❑ Don't litter.

At Your Business....

- ❑ Start an office recycling program for computer paper, cardboard, etc.
- ❑ Use scrap paper for informal notes to yourself and others.
- ❑ Print things on recycled paper and print or copy on both sides.
- ❑ Use smaller paper for smaller memos.
- ❑ Reuse manila envelopes and file folders.
- ❑ Bring reusable mugs to meetings
- ❑ Post non-urgent communications rather than making multiple copies.
- ❑ Use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- ❑ Office landscaping doesn't have to be sterile lawn and bedding plants. Plant trees and shrubs birds will like.



When You're Shopping....

- Don't buy food or household products in plastic or Styrofoam containers if there are alternatives (milk and egg cartons, vegetable oils, butter tubs, etc.)
- Don't buy "disposable" anything. Paper plates and towels, Styrofoam cups, etc., are extravagant wastes of the world's resources
- If you must buy disposables – buy paper products rather than plastic or Styrofoam.
- Buy durable products and keep them a little longer. Cheap furniture, clothes and appliances often have short life spans.
- Check the energy rating on major appliances you buy.
- Read labels and buy the least toxic product for cleaning, pest control and other jobs.
- Don't buy things with excess packaging
- Buy in bulk; reduce pollution that comes from the manufacture and disposal of many small packages.
- Don't buy products that come from endangered animals.



Personal Efforts....

- Join a conservation organization, volunteer your time or give money to worthy conservation/environmental causes.
- Read books and articles on wildlife and environmental issues.
- Watch nature programs on TV
- Convert by example...encourage other people to save resources, too.
- Complain to merchants about excess packaging, use of plastics, etc. Write letters to companies. Buy from merchants who are environmentally conscious.
- Write your legislators when you have an opinion about pending legislation on environmental, land use and other issues.
- Teacher children to respect nature and the environment. Take them on a hike, help them plant a tree or build a birdhouse, buy them a nature book or a subscription to a wildlife magazine.

Our family is committed to faithfully carrying out the above _____ (number) items we have checked off.

Signed _____ Date _____

Note: This list will be returned to your family after our second CPAWS presentation when our results are finalized.

When it is returned to you, please post this list somewhere visible as a reminder of your commitment and for future consideration.

Thank-you for your participation.

