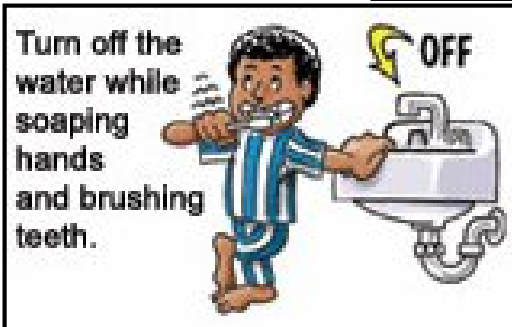


### 3. Get Water Wise ...

Pumping water into Southern California is one of our biggest uses of electricity, and thus one of our biggest sources of greenhouse gasses.



It takes energy to collect our water, treat it, deliver it, consume it, treat it again, and dispose of it as wastewater.

Every bit of water we save, preserves our precious water resources AND saves electricity (and thus reduces greenhouse gas emissions).



See the Top 12 Water Saving Tips at [www.watersavingtips.org/saving.html](http://www.watersavingtips.org/saving.html)

### 4. Understand the Goal...

We want to reduce how much greenhouse gasses we release because these gasses are making our planet heat up. In order to slow down how much the climate will change, we'll have to reduce our greenhouse gasses by 70-80% by the time you're a grandparent. It's too hard to make those big changes all at once. We have to do a little at a time. **We need to start now, and do a little more each year.** As you grow up you will see lots of wonderful, new, efficient and lower-powered ways of doing everyday things.

### 5. Practice the 4 R's ...

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy.

Understand that this list is in priority order - it gives the most important ones first.

**Reusing is twice as good as Recycling!**

- **Think before you buy.** What earth resources did it take to make the thing you're about to buy? (plastic comes from fossil sources) Will it last, for a long period of Reuse, or is it cheaply made and soon to be tossed in the landfill? Do you really need it?

- **Make it cool to Reuse.** Instead of paper plates and paper towels that end up in the landfill, use real dishes, napkins, dishtowels that can be reused again and again. Bring your lunch from home in Reuseable containers.
- **Take charge of sorting the trash** in your home. See how much you can Recycle. Challenge your family to reduce the amount that goes into your black trash can

**It takes 70% to 90% less energy to make recycled paper and it prevents the loss of forests worldwide.**



- When you're shopping, ask your parents to buy the brand that's made from recycled materials (Rebuy). Notebooks and paper for your schoolwork, toilet paper, copier paper for your parents' offices, and many other things are now available.

**Throw it 'away'? There's no such place as 'away'!**

**Ask your parents to read these:**

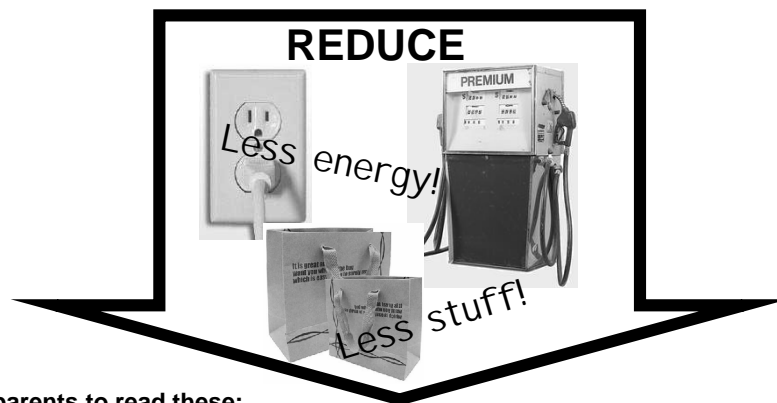
- "Unshopping" article by CoOp America [www.coopamerica.org/programs/shopunshop/unshopping/index.cfm](http://www.coopamerica.org/programs/shopunshop/unshopping/index.cfm)
- "Dispense with Disposables" article by J. Poyourow [www.LegacyLA.net/transformation/?p=112](http://www.LegacyLA.net/transformation/?p=112)
- Staples carries pads of 100% recycled lined paper, and 100% recycled copier paper. Toilet paper made from 100% recycled materials can be found at Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Gelsons.

## 6. Change your Expectations ...

Your lifestyle when you're an adult will be very different from how our lives are now.

- Understand how fossil fuels power our lifestyle today. Big cars get us around town. Planes fly us away on vacation. Trucks and planes bring our food and clothes from very far away. Fossil fuels power the electricity in our computers, our toys. In a future with less greenhouse gases, we'll have to change all those habits that rely on fossil fuels. Get used to the idea that fuel-intensive Star Wars spaceships aren't a realistic future.
- Fashions change all the time. If you follow fashions, clothes and toys which were really popular last year no longer seem cool today. It's tempting to throw them 'away' and get new ones, but this makes LOTS of waste. And it means oil, pollution and greenhouse gasses to make and transport all that stuff. Say no to the waste. Choose clothes and toys which will last and satisfy you for a very long time.
- Unplug the TV. Advertisers work hard to make you think you "need" lots of stuff you really don't. Walk away from their misleading messages. Just say no. Think for yourself, and try to learn how little stuff it really takes to have a good and happy life.

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."  
--Albert Einstein



### Ask your parents to read these:

- "Recipe for Simplicity," article by Linda Breen Pierce.  
<http://www.gallagherpress.com/pierce/recipe.htm>
- *Living Simply with Children*, by Marie Sherlock.

## 2. Know Cool Cars ...

What family activity has the biggest impact on our climate? Our cars. A big car that takes lots of gas (low mpg) releases the most greenhouse gasses.

- As you admire cars on the road – power cars like Ferraris and Porsches, or big vehicles like Hummers and Suburbans – understand how "uncool" they really are. Their low mpg harms the climate of your future. **Look for really Cool Cars:** the ultra-efficient hybrids, and the new all-electric Tesla sports car.
- **Get used to sharing.** Carpool to soccer and other activities so that fewer vehicles have to make the trip. Only take the big car if you can fill it with people. Teach your family to use busses and light rail, which are far more efficient than a car.
- Get the Human-powered Habit. Need to go around the corner to a friend's house or to the market? Could you **walk, or ride your bike?** It's healthier for your body, and it doesn't use gas, pollute, or release greenhouse gasses.
- Your parents probably can't buy a more-efficient vehicle right away. Until they can, get your parents to learn **efficient driving habits**. Don't let them idle the engine while they wait to pick you up. Tell them you don't like it when they accelerate and race, only to stop hard at the next traffic light.
- Next time Dad or Mom gets ready to buy a new car, remind them to **pick cars that use less gas** (more fuel efficient) so that your new car makes less greenhouse gasses.



### Ask your parents to read these:

Fueleconomy.gov gives mpg and greenhouse gas emissions for most model cars. <http://legacyla.net/transformation/?p=147> lists tips on driving more efficiently. Consider buying carbon credits; read <http://envirochangemakers.org/CarbonCredits.pdf>