

# Eco-Action

Eco-action means doing things for the environment that will help people, animals, and plants stay healthy and the air, soil, and water stay clean. This badge will help you take action.



## 1. Green Team

Start your own eco-action club with friends and family members. What simple things can you do to reduce pollution? Use less water or electricity? Produce less garbage? Damage the environment less? Create an eco-action pledge and decide on a way for everyone to do two of these Earth-friendly things over a two-week period. When the two-week period is up, club members should meet to share their experiences and renew their pledges to help the environment. Continue to meet as long as you like working on Earth-friendly projects.

## 2. Plant a Tree

Trees not only look beautiful, they also provide shade, act as a wind or sound break, add oxygen to the air, prevent soil erosion, and provide food and shelter to many animals—including humans. Take part in a tree-planting activity. None scheduled? With permission, plant one or more trees in a place where someone agrees to take care of them, such as your backyard, your schoolyard, or at a community center.

## 3. Every Drop Counts

People, plants, and animals need clean water to survive. Do something to conserve water, such as:

- Distribute free water-saving devices for showerheads, toilet tanks, or faucets to people you know in your community. Get these from a local government conservation agency.
- Ask your local fire station to provide fire hydrant sprinkler caps so that the kids in your neighborhood can cool off in the summer without wasting too much water.

## 4. What's Watt

Just how much electricity do your family appliances use? Look at the wattage information on each appliance you use—it's usually on the back or side of the appliance. Then multiply the wattage by the number of hours your family uses the appliance each day. Don't forget to count the watts used by light bulbs. Do this for three days. Which appliances use the most electricity?

## 5. Start the Presses!

With a group of friends, give people the scoop on environmental issues in your neighborhood by publishing a newspaper. You'll need reporters, a photographer or artist, a designer, and an editor to make sure the copy is interesting and accurate. Create a name for your newspaper. Work with your "staff" to cover stories that are important to your community.

## 6. Trashy Art

People produce tons of garbage every day but cities are running out of places to put it. Help reduce the amount of garbage you produce. Make a work of art by using some of the stuff you would ordinarily throw away. Get creative! Let your imagination turn things such as bottle caps, old game pieces, milk jugs, and packaging into "masterpieces." Want to do more for the environment? Hold a trashy art show with pieces made by your friends, family, or troop members.



## 7. Paper Rules!

Plastic takes about 500 years to break down, yet paper takes only six months. Encourage your community to use less plastic by creating an advertising campaign on brown paper bags. Collect at least ten large brown grocery bags in good shape. Decorate each bag with an environmental message. Donate the bags to a neighborhood store so that they can be reused.

## 8. Clean and Healthy

Make a difference. Improve the environment in your community by doing an Earth-friendly service project, such as:

- Joining or starting a project to label storm drains that empty into streams and rivers.
- Helping to control soil erosion in a park.
- Educating the community about noise pollution.

## 9. You "Auto Know"

Many states require that vehicles be tested for emissions—what comes out of the tailpipe—to make sure they are not polluting the air more than the law allows. If you live in one of those states, go along when your family car is inspected to find out what and how auto emissions are monitored.

## 10. Women's Work

Learn about a woman who was or is a champion of the environment. Find out how she became interested in helping the Earth, what she did, and how she prepared herself to reach her goal. Ask a librarian or teacher for help locating books and videos on women who have helped the environment. Don't forget to "surf the Net," too.