

5 Effective Ways to Take Local Eco-Action Every Day

While **REDUCE**, **REUSE**, and **RECYCLE** are the cornerstones of going green, there are many other ways to help create a healthier, cleaner future for our planet. You can take action on environmental issues every day - with your pocket book, voice, and computer.

1. **REWARD businesses that think green.**

Enviroshopping is a very effective way to take positive action, using the purchasing power of your wallet. Enviroshopping means purchasing products and services from companies (local and national) that are environmentally and socially responsible. And, while you are shopping, let them know **WHY** you have chosen to support their business.

2. **REJECT products with a negative impact.**

Purchasing power is always a two-way street. You can also refuse to buy products that are not environmentally responsible, like those with multiple layers of unnecessary packaging. When you stop buying a product and let the manufacturer know **WHY**, you are making a powerful statement - one that no competitive business can afford to ignore.

3. **REACT by speaking up.**

Taking a few minutes to share your opinion is a powerful way to create change. Speak up by asking for a manager / supervisor or by calling a consumer hotline listed on a package. Thank them for something positive or make a suggestion for correcting a problem. *Thanks for making it easy to recycle here.* **Or** *I love your product, but I won't buy it again unless the package is recyclable.*

4. **RESPOND by writing a letter or Email message.**

Writing a short letter or message is a simple way to have a significant impact on a company or group's environmental practices. Keep your communication concise and make positive suggestions whenever possible. To increase your impact, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and encourage other concerned individuals to also write about the issue.

5. **RENEW your commitment to a green group.**

Since there is strength in numbers, you can maximize your environmental impact by getting together with others who are concerned about the same issues. Local groups can always use donations (time, money, and other resources) to increase their effectiveness. Consider joining (or starting) a "green team" at work, the local school, a club, or your place of worship.