

top 10 ways to save the earth at home

Want to make a change? Start at home! Here are a few ways to help preserve natural resources that will benefit you, your family, and every other living thing on the planet:

- 1 **Slow the Flow** Take shorter showers and shut the water off while brushing your teeth or washing dishes. Fix water leaks. Install dual flush and low-flow toilets and showers.
Did You Know? The average American family of four uses 400 gallons of water at home every day!
- 2 **Brighten Up** Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs to save energy and money. Unplug electronics like TVs and computers that suck energy while in "sleep" mode. Shut off unneeded lights!
Did You Know? Compact fluorescent light bulbs last 10 times longer than regular incandescent bulbs!
- 3 **Keep Cool** Check for leaks around doors and windows. Draw the drapes to block sunlight, or even better, plant foliage to help shade your house, turn off the A/C, and let the breezes blow!
Did You Know? A white wall reflects up to 80% of the light that strikes it, so a light colored house will stay cooler inside!
- 4 **Be Efficient** Replace old appliances (air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines) with energy efficient ones to save energy and money.
Did You Know? With energy efficient appliances your family could save more than \$600 per year.
- 5 **Go Native** When planting or landscaping your yard, choose native plants that don't require lots of watering and pesticides.
Did You Know? Native landscaping supports wildlife and attracts birds, butterflies, and other animals to your yard!
- 6 **Don't Pollute Your Own House!** Household cleaners and detergents can have nasty stuff in 'em. Choose plant-based cleaners (instead of petroleum-based) and other natural alternatives.
Did You Know? Indoor air quality can be worse than that of outdoor air.
- 7 **Reuse & Recycle** Use rags instead of paper towels, use cloth bags instead of paper or plastic for groceries, print on both sides of paper, and recycle everything you can!
Did You Know? Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to run a TV for three hours!
- 8 **Go Solar** Talk to your parents about installing solar panels on your roof and take advantage of all the free sunshine for generating electricity and heating water. With rebates, solar power can be very affordable.
Did You Know? If we could capture one hour's worth of sunlight falling on the earth, we would have enough energy to provide the world with power for a year!
- 9 **Ditch the Car** To save gas and cut down on air pollution, try biking and walking. It's fun and good for you! Gotta go far? Take the bus. *Did You Know?* Not using a car two days a week will save 1,590 lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions each year!
- 10 **Spread the Word** Tell everyone you know to go green at home by conserving resources and choosing healthy products! Get started with the postcard on the far right page.



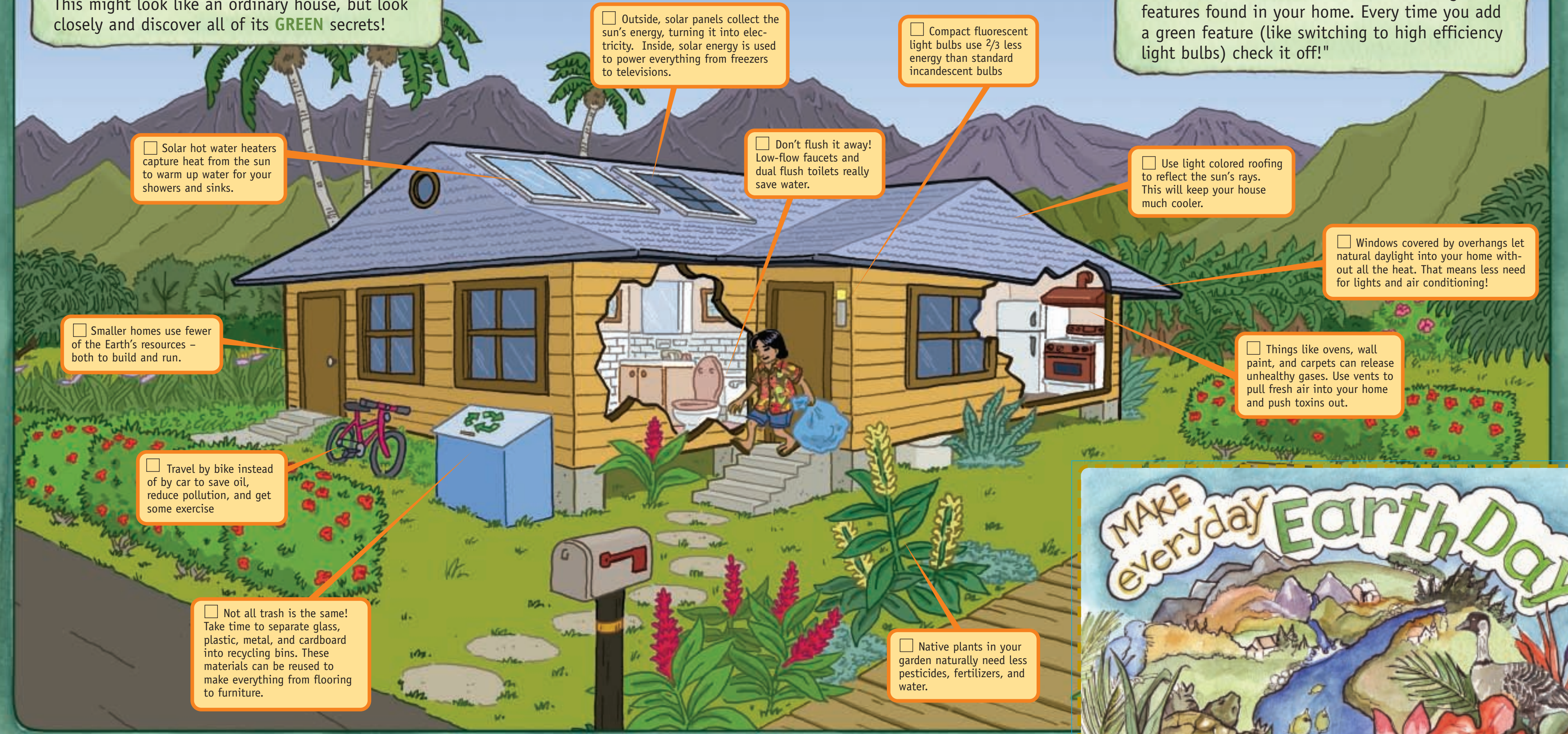
Secrets of a GREEN HOME

A Green Home of Your Own

How green is YOUR HOME?

This might look like an ordinary house, but look closely and discover all of its GREEN secrets!

Put check marks in the boxes that match green features found in your home. Every time you add a green feature (like switching to high efficiency light bulbs) check it off!"



Solar hot water heaters capture heat from the sun to warm up water for your showers and sinks.

Outside, solar panels collect the sun's energy, turning it into electricity. Inside, solar energy is used to power everything from freezers to televisions.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 2/3 less energy than standard incandescent bulbs

Don't flush it away! Low-flow faucets and dual flush toilets really save water.

Use light colored roofing to reflect the sun's rays. This will keep your house much cooler.

Windows covered by overhangs let natural daylight into your home without all the heat. That means less need for lights and air conditioning!

Smaller homes use fewer of the Earth's resources – both to build and run.

Things like ovens, wall paint, and carpets can release unhealthy gases. Use vents to pull fresh air into your home and push toxins out.

Travel by bike instead of by car to save oil, reduce pollution, and get some exercise

Not all trash is the same! Take time to separate glass, plastic, metal, and cardboard into recycling bins. These materials can be reused to make everything from flooring to furniture.

Native plants in your garden naturally need less pesticides, fertilizers, and water.

