

GO GREEN & SAVE MONEY

Going Green can feel like the expensive choice. But here are our “top swaps” for Going Green that don't cost the Earth!

#1 TOP TIP

BUY LESS, WASTE LESS.

Get out of the ‘retail rat race’ and when you really need to buy, choose pre-loved or an eco-friendly version where possible.

Switch to a Green Energy Provider

These can often be cheaper than the usual gas and electricity companies, it's a no-brainer.

Some Green Energy providers even pay early exit fees from your current supplier.

Search comparison websites such as Money Saving Expert or uSwitch, filtering for green energy suppliers.

Recycle

Recycling can save money for schools and businesses as it's cheaper than other waste management options.

The Terracycle scheme collects unrecyclable waste such as crisp, biscuit and snack packets, baby and pet food pouches, pens, beauty products, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes. This can raise money for schools or charities. See terracycle.co.uk for details.

Take torn or stained sheets, towels and clothes etc to charity shops and collection bins. Clean and labelled as rags, they have value to organisations with the means to recycle or re-purpose them. You can also offset a ‘new’ purchase slightly at H&M, who will give you a £5 off voucher for these items (if you can't get pre-loved, of course!).

Conserve Energy & Water

Switch to LED light bulbs which use about 75% less electricity and last much longer.

Request & use free water saving devices from your water company such as shower heads and swivel tap fittings.

Switch off lights and standby products when you're not using them.

If it's not very dirty, wash at 30°.

Eat & Shop Smart

Winner winner, veggie dinner!

#2 TOP TIP Eating less (or no) meat, especially beef, has a huge impact on the environment and the cost of your weekly shop.

Take reusable shopping and produce bags and Tupperware to the supermarket.

Have a reusable water bottle and coffee cup with you. Save on bottled drinks, and with “own cup” discounts in coffee shops.

Make it at home! From bread and Hummus, to cleaning products and deodorant, there's not much that you can't find a Pinterest recipe for! These are cheaper, all-natural AND cruelty and chemical free.

Other actions you can take to cut costs as well as your environmental impact:



Walk the Walk

Having only one car (or none), saves money, cuts emissions, and relieves congestion. Walk, cycle, get public transport or car share where possible.

Reuse and Relove

You can buy everything pre-loved for babies and children apart from mattresses, car seats, bike helmets and food! Kids' clothes are worn for such a short time buying new isn't necessary. So save money while helping save the planet they will inherit.

Run from fast fashion

Where possible borrow, lend, mend and buy pre-loved, especially for one-off events such as weddings or fancy dress.

Find or set up a swap shop or fancy dress sharing group for neighbours, friends and school parents to reduce the crazy cost and environmental impact of the next World Book Day or Roman day!

Switch Vay-Cay for Stay-Cay

Not flying - or flying a lot less - will massively reduce your annual carbon footprint, and save money.

Make it a family affair

By involving our children in positive actions, we're hopefully setting them up to make conscious choices as they grow, but it doesn't have to be a chore, why not try some of these cheap, eco and fun activities:

- Litter pick with friends in the parks and woods. Councils provide litter pickers and bags for free, and the kids get lots of outdoors time.
- Do a geochaching / letterboxing treasure hunt in nature.
- Spend pocket money at local bootfairs and jumble sales.
- Learn to knit, crochet and sew so they can make handy things for themselves and as thoughtful gifts
- Do some gardening, especially growing their own fruit and vegetables
- Pick fruit/veg at local farms.

Bringing the community together to make small changes which deliver a big impact



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