

# April 2010



## Did you Know?

Did you know that the average house pollutes twice as much as a car? It's true! The vast majority of the energy we use to heat, light and entertain us at home relies on the burning of fossil fuels, which creates pollution and leads to global warming.

US EPA estimates that our homes contribute about 17% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. So when we save energy at home, we are helping to protect the environment from the risks of global warming.



## This Month's Green Thought:

The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

- Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, co-founder of Earth Day



## Celebrate Earth Day, Everyday!

Over 40 years ago, Senator Gaylord Nelson met with President Kennedy to discuss the need to raise awareness about pollution. The Senator and the President began traveling around the country, making speeches to inspire action. But despite their high powered positions, they couldn't seem to make it happen. Know what made the difference? Kids.

It took the power of kids to make it happen. When the Senator went to schools and colleges to engage America's youth in the cause the tide was turned, and on April 22, 1972 the first Earth Day was celebrated. Today, Earth Day is celebrated all over the world, and it serves as an important reminder that everyone has to do their part every day to keep our planet safe and healthy.

Nowadays, our environmental consciousness is stronger than ever. Many people look for environmentally safe products for their homes and incorporate practices like recycling into their day to day lives. But one of the easiest and most important ways to be "green" is to be energy efficient, and that is something in which the whole family can participate. In fact, you may find, as Senator Nelson did, that your kids can lead the way.

And don't underestimate how much they care. Last November, Scholastic polled young people between the ages of 9 and 15 on their views about the environment and found that more than half consider global warming the most important environmental issue facing the world today. Interestingly, kids see themselves as part of the solution: 85% of respondents told Scholastic that the responsibility for protecting the environment belongs to everyone - not just the government, scientists or adults. In contrast, the vast majority of adults surveyed put ownership on government and business.

Help your kids be part of the solution. By shutting off unneeded lights, turning off electronics when they are not in use and keeping doors and windows closed when heat and air conditioners are running, your kids can help save energy at home and protect our environment. And encourage recycling – it not only keeps trash out of landfills, it also saves energy because it requires less energy to manufacture a product with recycled materials.

When we adopt these simple habits, our energy and money savings can add up, and taken together, the environmental benefits can be significant. To learn more good energy habits for kids, visit [www.myenergystar.com](http://www.myenergystar.com).

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