

My Dad Just Helped Save the Planet

Contributed by Steven Grande

Kermit the Frog may have said "It's not easy being green," but I think he was incorrect. It is not so difficult to go "Green" with all of the environmentally correct products that surround us each and every day. If we all do our part, the Earth will be a much healthier planet for everyone.

I decided to ask Dadosphere if I could become their "Green Dad" editor when I saw the position listed a few weeks back. I have no real editorial background. Heck, I don't even know if I use correct punctuation or when and where I should start a new paragraph. And let's not get me started on my absolute reliance on Spellcheck.

But I do know that I want to play a role in keeping our planet healthy for my kids and their kids, and so on...My main goal for these articles will be how easy (and fun) it can be to add a little "Green" to our everyday lives and how they affect our planet.

The term "Green" will be very familiar to most and very un-familiar to some. Let me first start by explaining what going "green" is. It is nothing more than lessening our daily impact on the earth's resources and introducing sustainability to our everyday lifestyles. The more we can decrease our carbon footprint, the better the planet will respond and become a healthier place for all of us to enjoy.

Some may think that this whole "green" thing is a fad or a passing phase. Believe me when I tell you, it is here to stay. You really can't turn your head without someone else mentioning the green movement. More and more local communities are adopting green building codes to make sure our houses are built as energy efficient as possible.

TIME magazine even changed their familiar red logo on their cover to a green one to showcase that they are on board with the message. There is a brand new cable channel from Discovery Channel, Planet Green, that is 100% focused on the green culture.

I am sure you are saying to yourselves, "I recycle my bottles and cans, I am doing my part." and by doing so you definitely are starting on the right track. But as of today, only 31% of people actually recycle. That is an astonishingly low number in the grand scheme (and the planet is a pretty grand place).

So what else can we do to help jump on board this big green machine? First, get your kids involved as they are just as big a part of the green process as you are. Let them know there are websites they can bookmark and go to for more information on how they can help. I have some of them listed below.

Secondly, just be a little more cautious in your everyday lives. Think before you throw that water bottle away at the office. If you have to go short distances in the city, try public transportation - it's one less car on the road and fewer parking hassles. Even the toys you buy your kids could be helping the environment. Check some of these "Earth Friendly" toys out:

This tea set from www.GreenToys.com is made up of recycled plastic milk jugs.

Comet Skateboards (www.cometskateboards.com) produces boards using sustainable harvested woods and non-toxic finishes.

If we join together and each do a little more, we can all look our kids in the eye and tell them " I just helped save the planet!" Not one of us can say anything cooler to our little ones!!

Kids Green Websites:

- Kids Be Green

- Ollie's World

- Abc.net

- Green Toys
- Comet Skateboards
- Go Green Initiative