

How Green I Am

Any time I ask tough questions about global warming science, enviro-activists label me a right-wing nut who feels no obligation to care for the planet. Is it any wonder why I burst into laughter when they do that?

1. Refrigerator set at warmest tolerable setting
2. Grocery bags re-used as garbage sacks (recycled tape from grocery store lettuce plastic saved and reused to repair torn garbage sacks), with non-recyclable garbage being compacted
3. Harvested rainwater used whenever possible to water my patio full of plants and tree saplings
4. Technically speaking, one of my tree sapling plantings outside of my apartment was unapproved, it is now taller than I am an accepted as something that is 'part of the landscaping'. Four other shrubs outside of my apartment fit that same category
5. Most of my flowers come from seeds I've harvested from prior generations of my plants. I have also planted those flower seeds at my vacation stops in appropriate places
6. Relatively clean rinse water from hand-washing dishes used to water plants and trees outside my apartment
7. Tap water saved as drinking water in recycled containers
8. My food is microwaved rather than baked in an oven - used plastic microwavable food containers are re-purposed as plant containers or water saucers for plants
9. Excess napkins in my fast-food purchases are saved and used thoroughly later. Paper towels are thoroughly used up for all manner of cleaning before being discarded
10. Bars of hand soap are used until they become paper-thin slivers, at which point I mash them into new bars
11. I've saved the mini-bars of soap from prior hotel visits, now I take 'em with me to use at hotels, thus the maids don't have to re-stock the soap when I leave
12. Numerous other items are used to absolute extinction, extracting and consuming every possible ounce out of toothpaste tubes, lip balm, edible crumbs, etc
13. I use a human-powered carpet sweeper used instead of electric vacuum
14. I get 'maximum use' out of adhesive-backed stickers before I throw them out by using them to pick up fuzz from my carpet
15. Perfectly good, clean items "harvested" from my apartment complex's dumpsters for my own re-use, eBay sale, or donation to thrift stores
16. I have not bought a pen, pencil or box of paper clips in recent memory, such stationary items are good discarded items I find in parking lots
17. Calendars from prior years saved over a long span of time re-used when applicable to the current year. E.g., 2003 identical to 2014
18. More often than not, the greeting cards / birthday cards I give out are made from used material
19. My snail mail correspondence is almost always printed on used paper, sent in unused return envelopes I've collected from various sources
20. Nearly all of my personal use computer printouts are on used pieces of paper. Any lengthy printouts are printed double-sided, despite the additional effort to flip the pages and resend through the printer.
21. I've never bought notepads of paper, all of my scratchpad notes are written on scraps cut from my junkmail envelopes
22. Some junkmail flyer sheets are re-used as cover material over the meals I microwave to prevent food splattering
23. Used books purchased whenever possible, and ones I no longer need are donated or sold to used book stores
24. Other perfectly acceptable used items for my purposes are purchased from garage sales and thrift stores rather than brand-new items. My toaster dates from the 1960s.
25. I actively utilize community efforts which accept outdated hazardous chemicals and obsolete electronic devices
26. Clothing I no longer want is donated to charity, deteriorating t-shirts are used as clean-up rags
27. When I wash clothes, on the occasions when I use dryer sheets, I save them after one cycle and use them once again
28. Rechargeable batteries used in nearly all of my electronic items, with non-rechargeable nearly spent ones selected for use in very low voltage clocks to completely discharge them
29. Air gaps sealed in my doors and windows - been doing this in every apartment I've lived in since 1988
30. Passive solar heating of my apartment in the winter, A/C on at 86°, off at 82°+ in the summer - my electric bill is more than half as much of what my neighbors pay
31. Metal, glass, and paper consumables all put in recycling bin, obsolete pair of computer printers taken to recycling centers
32. No continuous running water for tooth brushing, and I don't run the water for my Shower / hair washing straight down the drain when I warm it up, I save it and pour it in the toilet tank later after flushing. I'm probably saving over 700 gallons of water per year doing that.
33. 60 watt bulbs instead of 100 watt. CFLs? No way. As nicely pointed out in two post above, and from anecdotal evidence I heard years ago, there's no way I can justify their expense, or disposal cost. The last 99 cent bulb I had in my living room lasted 2+ years.
34. Lights are never left on in rooms I'm not in, and I shut off the lights at my apartment complex laundry room during mid-day as it is adequately lit from window light
35. I bicycle or walk to nearby destinations rather than drive my car
36. Work at home rather than drive to work
37. Hyper-mileing in a high mpg light colored car, with minimal A/C usage in the summer
38. My car, circa 1986, is well maintained, has exhaust emissions lower than the state standard. I have no intention of buying a new car, ever.
39. I change the oil in my car and dispose of it at an oil recycling center
40. During the summer, I place window-shaped cardboard pieces inside the side windows of my car to minimize its accumulated interior heat