

February 11th - 17th is Go Green week. Go Green Week is People & Planet's annual **national week of action** in schools, colleges and universities. Students hold a week of activities to raise awareness every February. While this is a great idea for students, **we should all make the effort to go green every day.**

With that in mind, here are five things we can all do NOW to go green and do our part to protect the environment:

- Wash your clothes in cold water – 90% of the energy used in washing clothes is from heating the water.
- Cut the water off while brushing your teeth- this will save six liters of water a minute.
- Change your light bulbs – If every American home replaced just one standard light bulb with a bulb that has the Energy Star, we would save enough energy to light three million homes for one year.
- Pay your bills online – if everyone in the United States paid their bills online and received statements online 18.5 million trees would be spared.
- Start your own compost pile - Composting cuts down on the amount of garbage that gets sent to a landfill, thus reducing methane and leachate release (Landfill leachate is liquid created after rainwater mixes with the chemical waste. Modern landfills are often designed to prevent liquid from leaching out and entering the environment; however, if not properly managed, the leachate is at risk for mixing with groundwater near the site and can have dire effects).

Imagine the impact we could have on our world if just one half of the people in the US took these five simple steps towards conservation. Our world would be cleaner and greener.

*Green Challenge Committee members:
Commissioners: Betty Moseley (Chair), Ron Bullock, and Calvin "C.J." Harris*