



6 SIMPLE WAYS TO GO GREEN

Going green all at once is too much for almost anyone to accomplish. Instead, try making just one new change or adding one new habit or resolve each week. You'll be surprised at how it adds up. Here's a few to get you started:

- Check your tyre pressure – If a vehicle's tires have less than recommended air pressure, gas mileage will suffer.
- Wrapping a water heater with insulation can keep as many as 1,000 pounds of global-warming CO2 a year out of the upper atmosphere.
- Using cold water can save up to 80% of the energy required to wash clothes.
- If it's clear that a train or other barrier will block your vehicle for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. An idling vehicle burns more fuel than a simple restart. And you won't be polluting when the engine is off.
- Consider buying a laptop. They use 50% of the energy used by a typical desktop PC when plugged in and just 1% of the energy when running on batteries.
- Store food and other products in ceramic containers rather than foil and plastic wrap.

Greenpeace exists because this fragile Earth deserves a voice. It needs solutions. It needs change. It needs action.

Greenpeace is a non-profit campaigning organisation that acts on the most crucial global threats to our planet's biodiversity and environment. In over 40 countries around the world, Greenpeace campaigns to stop climate change, defend our oceans, protect ancient rainforests, create a toxic-free future and promote sustainable agriculture.

At Greenpeace, we strongly believe in the power of non-violent direct action. We expose environmental crimes and confront the criminals fearlessly. We point at problems and promote solutions for a clean and safe future for the Earth and all life on it.

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THE UNFILTERED TRUTH

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EDITORIAL



From the desk of:

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For some time now, we've been hearing a lot about 'climate change' and the inevitable apocalypse that awaits us. What does all this mean and are we going to be witness to it in our lifetime?

Well, the sad reality is that it's already begun. If we look at the world around us, we see devastating natural calamities plastered all over the news – from hurricanes to melting poles, our home planet is on the brink of imploding. It's time we stop playing the blame game and instead, lead the change. Be it by installing solar panels, recycling or taking the bus to work. The more people that get sensitised to this burning issue, the better the chance we have of preventing disaster.

All hope is not lost. Bihar is proving to turn out to be a model state for the rest of the country to follow. By adopting renewable energy and providing tax incentives, the Bihar government is showing great initiative by proposing solar power generation of 250 MW.

The recent Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad brought with it a welcome surprise – governments from across the globe unanimously agreed to a set of measures that draws us nearer to an effective plan for the protection of our oceans.

It looks like the world is waking up and 2013 is going to be a year of mammoth change. We have a lot in store for this year and look forward to your support. Happy New Year!

Govts. Must confront climate change in 2013

-Blogpost by Kumi Naidoo,
Executive Director, Greenpeace International.

I hope I am wrong but in 2013, we can expect to witness more devastating extreme weather events, fuelled and supercharged by the destructive power of a warming planet brought about by climate change.

Hot on the heels of super storm Sandy wreaking havoc through the Caribbean and the US, typhoon Bhopa (Pablo) swept the coasts of the Philippines leaving thousands homeless and killing more than 900 people.

The storms came as a profound warning that the current trajectory will mean a 4°C warmer world by the turn of the century. Investor groups and insurance companies have been demanding that governments create a strong regulatory framework to avert catastrophic climate change that will wreak havoc on businesses.

The US, Europe and other developed nations must step up and rise to the role of global environmental champion. Emerging economies such as China, India, South Africa and Brazil need to take a more progressive role in constructing a climate saving deal at the UN.

In 2013 I expect to see an increase in renewable energy investments and more innovation and technology that can deliver solutions for the climate while also delivering economic regeneration and helping lift people out of poverty.

We can no longer talk about climate change as an ominous threat on the horizon; the climate has changed and what we saw last year is only a small bitter taste of our common future if action is not taken immediately to alter course.

I hope, I expect and I appeal on behalf of current and future generations that 2013 goes down in history as the year that governments, industry and civil society secured our planet for current and future generations.



COP11 – CBD

The latter part of 2012 was filled with hope as India got to host the 11th Conference Of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP11 – CBD). 15,000 delegates from 193 nations descended on Hyderabad to chalk out a plan to tackle the decline in biodiversity by 2020. Our Junglistan campaign which sought to protect our forests led up to this convention with the hope to make ourselves heard and bring about positive change.

Unfortunately, all didn't go according to plan – no concrete steps were taken towards the security of our forests and the PM refused to accept the petition signed by lakhs of Indians. On the contrary, in the run up to the CBD and ever since, Manmohan Singh has continued to push for dilution of legislation that protects India's forests, even as he tried, in vain, to convince the international community that India was a leader in biodiversity protection.

All was not in vain though. Commenting on the success of the negotiations for the protection of marine biodiversity, Veronica Frank from Greenpeace said: "It is not often at these large UN conferences that the environment has much to celebrate but yesterday was one of those rare exceptions. After ten days of intense negotiations, representatives of governments from across the globe put individual self-interest to one side and agreed to a set of measures that will take us a step closer to an effective global regime for the protection of our oceans. The warning signs are everywhere and finally the leaders seem to be listening."

For a detailed report and to get a peek at what we have up our sleeve, visit greenpeace.org/india.



BEING THE CHANGE

I'm proud to announce that the Greenpeace Supporter Campaigns office for India, located in Bangalore, has recently installed solar panels which on a bright day, generates about 15kw of electricity. This makes the whole office nearly self-sufficient on most days!

With dramatic environmental changes happening around us, it's the little steps that let us reach a big goal. Stay tuned for a year of change. Hint: we have some exciting projects lined up this year!



Solar panels installed on the Greenpeace Supporter Campaigns office in Bangalore generates about 15kw.



BIHAR LIGHTS THE WAY

The Bihar state government has devised a tax incentives plan to encourage private players to invest in solar energy. This move is especially significant since the state has been reeling under massive power shortage. The tax benefits include an exemption of registration and entry tax on installation of solar power plants on wastelands in the state. This puts the unutilised land to good use and the abundant sunshine the state receives is harnessed here and used for power generation.

The Chief Minister of Bihar has even installed solar panels at his official residence in a bid to create more awareness of the potential of this renewable resource. After conducting a survey which proved the immense potential of solar power generation in the state, the government has sent proposals to the state cabinet for approval to generate 250 MW through various solar power projects.

Bihar is now en route to becoming a model state for the rest of the nation to follow. So here's to a bright future!