

ur magnificent planet provides a home for our entire human family and countless creatures. But Earth is in danger. Our air is polluted with carbon dioxide from vehicles, power plants, and factories. Fertilizers, plastics, and other wastes threaten wildlife and natural resources. And trees are cut down faster than they can be replaced.

These and other environmental

problems may seem overwhelming. But kids all over the world are taking big and small actions to help, from cleaning up litter to protecting endangered animals.

Look around and see how you can help save the earth, too—right in your own neighborhood. If you aren't sure where to begin, start with simple goals. As your experience and confidence grows, you can take on larger projects. Every action counts!

10 THINGS I CAN DO TO HELP SAVE EARTH

Ready for an earth-friendly challenge? Do at least 10 different tasks from this list over the next two months. Talk to your parents about the goals you want to accomplish. Check off each goal you complete, and write the date you reach it.

DA	TE ACCOMPLISHED
☐ Reuse empty food boxes, cartons, or bottles for a craft or school project.	
□► Read a book about my favorite endangered animal.	
□~ Use a reusable water cup when brushing my teeth, instead of letting the faucet run.	
□ Use both sides of my paper to help save trees.	
□ Turn off the lights when I leave an unoccupied room.	
□ Consult with my family on ways we can create less trash at home.	
□ Bring a reusable bag to the store when I shop.	
□ Switch to reusable containers for my school lunches.	
□ Walk or bike somewhere instead of traveling by car.	
☐► Help my family switch to energy—efficient light bulbs.	
□ Keep my showers to 5–10 minutes to conserve water and energy.	
□ Donate my old books, toys, or clothes to families in need.	
□ Pick up trash in my neighborhood, a park, or my schoolyard.	
Collect aluminum cans and recycle them.	
□ Donate money to an environmental charity.	
□ Start a recycling program at school or home.	
□~ Help my family plant a tree in my yard.	
□ Create or work in an organic garden with my family.	
□ Start a compost bin for food scraps and other materials that can fertilize the garden.	
□ Unplug appliances when they're not in use. Even when turned off, appliances still use energy.	
☐~ Write the mayor or another community leader about an environmental problem in my area.	