



EARTHMONTH

ECO-FACTS

FOOD

Approximately 20 percent of the food we each buy is never eaten. Visit SavetheFood.com for tips on reducing food waste.

Trashing one egg wastes 55 gallons of water. Visit SavetheFood.com for tips on reducing food waste.

Roughly one-third of the food produced for human consumption gets lost or wasted. Fruits and vegetables have the highest rate of waste. Visit fao.org/save-food and search for *Key Findings* to learn more.

RECYCLING

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to power a TV for three hours.

Houston ISD recycles clean paper and cardboard at our campuses. Visit HoustonISD.org/GoGreen and contact us to learn how to start or expand a recycling program.

Only one percent of plastic bags are recycled. You cannot recycle your plastic shopping bags at school or in the City of Houston bins but you can recycle them at most supermarkets. Wal-Mart, HEB, and Kroger all have recycling containers for clean, dry plastic bags from any source.

ENERGY

At home, replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs bulbs in the lamps you use the most. LEDs last longer and use 80 percent less electricity. Remember that the most energy efficient light bulb is the one that is turned off. Visit NationalGeographic.com and search for the [Light Bulb Savings Calculator](#) to estimate your savings.

Turn off your computers, monitors and other appliances at the end of the day. "Sleep" mode still uses energy.

WATER

It takes 1.85 gallons of water to make one plastic water bottle. Reusable water bottles are a better choice.

If you see a leaky faucet, report it to your teacher. One drop per second equals five gallons wasted every day. Visit water.usgs.gov/edu for more water facts and activities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Every gallon of gasoline used releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere (www.eia.gov). Visit the Safe Routes to School website for information on how to reduce the number of car trips to and from school.

The greenhouse effect is an increase in the average temperature of the Earth. Without greenhouse gases, the temperature on Earth would be too cold to support life. With too many greenhouse gases, it would heat up beyond survivable levels.

WASTE

Paper can account for as much as **60 percent** of school waste.

Preventing one ton of paper waste saves between 15 and 17 mature trees.

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will operate a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.