

PUT THE ACTION INTO SOCIAL ACTION

Even though we are stuck in the house during the COVID-19 quarantine, we can still celebrate creation, be good stewards of the environment, and pass on those values to the next generation.



One of the best things about practicing good green habits is that nine times out of 10, they're also the most *frugal* option! It turns out that being environmentally friendly is also good economics—in our home and budget, *and* with the earth. There are lots of little things we can do in our homes to play our small part in reducing landfill waste, cleaning the air, and preserving the natural landscape. But we double our efforts when we get our kids involved, helping them understand the why to our what.

When they get it, it'll be second nature when they're adults—and that much easier to pass it down to their children.

Periodically, the Social Action Committee will post two small, easy, green choices we can make in our homes. Choose one (or both!) that you're not already doing, and make it a habit this year. Some of them are linked to the Internet so click for further information and instructions.



GREEN TIPS:

1. Replacing one incandescent lightbulb with a **compact fluorescent light (CFL)** can save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. CFLs produce the same amount of light, use one-third of the electricity and last up to 10 times as long. Switch your lightbulbs to [energy efficient types](#).
2. Composting is a way to recycle certain materials and kitchen scraps and turn them into a beneficial soil amendment and reduce waste output. Create a home-made compost bin to provide fertilizer for your flower beds or that garden you've recently planted to provide your table with vegetables. Here's a site that will tell you how to do it: [Create a homemade compost bin for \\$15](#).

We will also post directions to create a craft that will enhance the environment. These crafts won't require anything special—just stuff you have around the house or items that you would normally throw in the garbage. Occasionally, you may have to purchase a few items at the supermarket or craft store, but most craft activities will be simple and will involve even the youngest family members.

This week, we'll give you directions to make a cute bird feeder you can hang on the branch of a tree in your yard.

Owl Bird Feeder

Recycle juice or milk cartons to make this great craft for our feathery friends.

To make this craft, you will need the following materials:

- 1 juice/milk carton (quart or half-gallon size)
- enamel paint (or acrylic paint & waterproof varnish)
- stanley knife or box-cutter
- 4 plastic bottle lids
- googly eyes (in craft stores; or draw dots with a waterproof black marker)
- craft stick/ popsicle stick/ stick
- hot glue gun or good PVA glue (Elmers, Gorilla, craft glue)
- bird seed (available in the supermarket)



Milk Carton Owl Bird Feeder – Step-by-step Instructions:

1. Start off by painting the juice carton. You may need two coats to make the color nice and even. Enamel paints (for flower pots, etc.) are good because they are waterproof. Acrylic paints are water-based and won't last as long, although you could use acrylic paint and then add a coat of waterproof varnish.
2. Once the carton is dry, use the stanley knife to cut out a "tummy and wings" into the bottom half and sides of your juice or milk carton. Mom or dad will have to help you with this. Cut a beak shape from the tummy. As for the wings, don't cut them out completely; you want to keep the "flaps" attached. Fold up the wings a bit. This will keep the seeds a little more sheltered and give you those lovely owl wings!
3. Finally, glue your bottle-top eyes onto the carton. If you don't have googly eyes, just draw dots with a black waterproof marker for the pupils.
4. Fill the bottom of the owl carton with bird seed. Just fill it to the bottom of the tummy.
5. Poke a hole below the tummy and insert the popsicle/craft stick for the perch.
6. Punch a little hole, thread it with yarn, string or a shoelace and hung the bird feeder outside.
7. Hang and enjoy.