

Reduce, reuse, recycle: Tips for new greenies

1. Plan ahead.

Buy what you know you'll use instead of buying on impulse – you'll end up throwing less away.

2. Recharge your batteries.

One-use batteries contain cadmium, mercury and other toxic metals. Rechargeable batteries are greener – they're cheaper in the long term, too.

3. Go local.

Try to shop as locally as possible and look for products with minimal packaging.

4. Carry on recycling.

Keep reusing your supermarket carrier bags, or get a reusable cloth bag instead.

5. Make the polluter pay.

Remove unnecessary packaging and leave it at the checkout – suppliers will soon get the message.

6. Think twice.

The more you think before buying, the less you'll throw away. And don't dump it, recycle it. Give your trash a second life.

Take your 2nd Chance. Reduce, reuse, recycle.



The Return is a marine turtle conservation effort by the final semester students of Taylor's College.

For more information, log on to:
<http://the-return.blogspot.com>

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**The Return
Recycling Program:
How good recycling habits
can help save marine turtles.**



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Marine Turtles: A Deadly Tangle

"Sustainable development...meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of further generations to meet their own needs."

- World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future, 1987

Marine turtles in Malaysia are being pushed to the brink of extinction, with many already listed as endangered species. Below is the report of marine turtles living in Malaysia waters.

Species	Status
Leatherback Turtles	Declined > 99%.
Olive Ridley Turtles	Declined > 95%.
Green Turtles	Compared to population numbers before 1970, populations in Terengganu & Sarawak have decreased more than twofold.
Hawksbill Turtles	Large populations only in Sabah & Mallaca.

One of the biggest threats to marine turtle populations is pollution. Although we might feel distant from ocean areas, it's shocking to see how far a bit of rubbish can go, and how much damage it can do.

- Six-pack rings and plastic straws are deadly for turtles, fish and other marine life. Thousands of marine creatures die needlessly after becoming entangled in such plastic rings or swallowing straws.
- We might release balloons outside as a romantic gesture, but they can travel hundreds of miles, landing in rivers and oceans. Turtles are often killed after ingesting balloons mistaken for jellyfish.
- One of the most common sources of beach pollution is cigarette butts. More than 1,000,000 daily have been recorded on beach clean-ups. They take up to seven years to break down.

In fact, anything we dump in the street has the potential to kill. That's because it goes into drains which lead straight to rivers, seas, and ultimately the oceans without being cleaned.

We determine the future we want!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

The good news is that you can change the situation that threatens marine turtles. You can help curb the amount of trash that makes its way to turtles' homes by some thoughtful changes to your lifestyle. For example:

- Break the individual circles of six-pack rings
- Replace plastic straws with paper or use none
- Buy environmentally-friendly products and support organic farming
- Pick up trash while walking in your neighbourhood
- Reduce, reuse and recycle (find tips in this brochure!)

You can also contact the organizations listed here. There are lots of programs and events that you can get involved in to show your support and love for the ecosystem – as well as for marine turtles.

Turtle friendly: Go green with these NGOs

The Return has partnered with two pioneers of environmental work in Malaysia. Join us and get involved in their efforts to save Malaysia's diverse ecosystem.

TrEES

Treat Every Environment Special is a local, non-profit organization that seeks to reconnect the public back to nature; to demonstrate the impact their actions have on the environment and the role they play in its conservation.

Find out more at <http://www.trees.org.my>

MNS

The Malaysian Nature Society is a local, non-profit organization that seeks to promote the study, appreciation, conservation and protection of Malaysia's natural heritage.

Find out more at <http://www.mns.org.my>