



**Deep South Region Junior Gardeners**  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

**The P.O.W.E.R. Bees**

(Protecting Our World's Environment and Resources)

Important Things Kids Can Do to Protect Our World

**The BEE Attitudes**

**Bee Green**

**Bee Clean**

**Bee Seen**

**Bee Heard**

**Bee Smart**

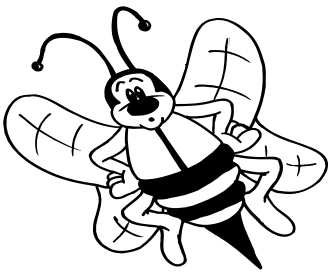
**Bee Thrifty**

**Bee Aware.....Be Very Aware!!**

Junior Gardeners: **Kids have a lot of power!**

This booklet is for you. When kids take action on something important, grown-ups pay a lot of attention. If protecting and saving our earth becomes important to you, YOU must try to do something to help. When you do take action, grown-ups will join forces with you.

*This booklet is printed on recycled paper.*



## THE POWER BEE ATTITUDES

### BEE GREEN

#### 1. Become the Green Hornet.

- A. Get on the internet and learn all you can about “Going Green.” Then share this knowledge with your Junior Gardeners, your class at school or your group at church, and your teachers. Be the one who buzzes about this until someone joins you in the “fight.”
- B. Buy school supplies made of recycled materials.
- C. Recycle used, broken crayons @ [crazycrayons.com](http://crazycrayons.com)
- D. Organize a campaign at school to collect 2-liter soda bottles, empty chip bags, cookie wrappers, etc. for recycling @ [terracycle.net](http://terracycle.net)

#### 2. Where Are All The Dinosaurs??

They are extinct! That could also happen to elephants or zebras, certain fish, or the big beautiful redwood trees if we are not careful. How can we keep the air clean and the Earth green and healthy?

- A. Just say NO to bags you don't need. They don't decay readily in landfills, and more and more land is needed for these problem-producing landfills.
- B. Start a campaign to take your used paper or plastic bags to the stores, or use a cloth sack made specifically for this purpose every time you shop, to take items home in. Ask Mom and Dad to do the same.
- C. While at the supermarket, try to count all the plastic bags people carry out of the store, with a few items in each. Then, imagine multiplying that number by the number used all day. Then, multiply that by the number used in a week. Next, multiply that imaginary number by 4 weeks in a month. What about all over the state? Or the whole US? That becomes an astronomical amount of plastic polluting our world.

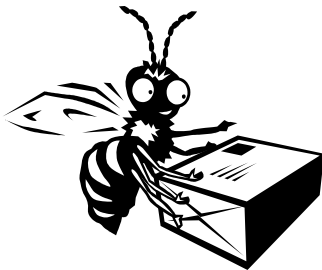
#### 3. A Green Tree Project

- A. Learn more about trees. Learn what a tree can produce besides its fruit or nuts (Hint: Think air, birds, kids, products, etc.) Write a story or poem about a big tree in your yard or community, telling how it helps the people and the environment. Report to your club on the importance of trees.

- B. Take a field trip to a local nursery or garden center and interview the people working there. Learn all about the best trees for your area. Planting a tree is great fun. It is one of the best things you can do to **POW!....Protect Our World**. As a group, learn how, when, and where to plant a tree and then go and plant one! Make this a project for more than one year.
- C. Learn about the National Arbor Day Foundation on the internet. Join in their program by planting trees on Arbor Day. Write to them to tell them about your club or class project.

#### 4. Get Growing – A Green Plant Project

Ask parents' permission to grow greenery at home. This could be in a small outdoor bed or in a container. Choose healthy plants at a nursery, read all directions with the plant, and follow them as you plant. Be very responsible about caring for them. Later, report to your club on what happens. Planting Choices: Lettuce, tomatoes, herbs; marigolds, petunias, begonias, geraniums



### BEE CLEAN

#### Stow It – Don't Throw It!

- A. Organize a weekly campus litter pick-up at school.
- B. Decorate paper bags or inexpensive gift bags with Stow It – Don't Throw It theme. Use as litter bags in your family's vehicles.
- C. Start a recycling project at home: newspapers, aluminum cans, plastic bottles.
- D. Have a poster contest with the Stow It – Don't Throw It theme. Place posters in schools and businesses. Also, have a poster contest and make fliers to promote the next idea listed below.
- E. Cans Can Clutter—NOT!

With Club members and classmates, organize a school-wide drive to collect and recycle aluminum cans. (PLAN. You should locate a recycling center and talk to them. Then, seek help from principals and teachers to set a date for the drive, select collection sites on campus). When you talk with the collection center, tell them about your drive. Ask if they have a large container

to place on the campus. You will need other smaller ones to place around the school. When you deliver to them, you may have earned some money. Decide upon a GREEN way to spend it. TIP: Do it again next year, and the next, and.....

#### F. Clean-Up Treasure Hunt

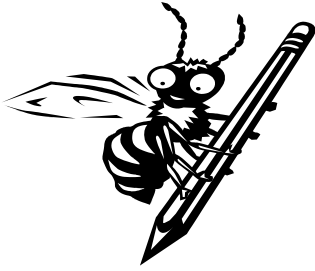
Conduct a treasure hunt to clean up your school ground. With two or more teams, using trash bags and gloves for each team, compete to stow the most “treasure.” You can make a list of “Wanted” items to pick up (pencils, pens, paper, lunch bags, gum wrappers, something red, etc.) Set a time to begin and end. Afterward, recycle, return, or reuse what you can and properly discard the rest. The winners might receive a certificate, a small prize, or even extra recess time.



### **BEE SEEN – BEE HEARD**

#### **Busy Bees Buzzing Around**

- A. Read a book about environmental issues to young children. (The Lorax by Dr. Seuss, The Wartville Wizard by Don Madden.)
- B. Sponsor a poster contest illustrating environmental issues in your community, state or world.
- C. Give a brief presentation on water conservation, litter, recycling, etc. to your club, class or organization (Scouts, 4-H, etc.)
- D. Put up a bulletin board display at school showcasing one or more of the environmental issues.
- E. Promote Earth Day. Each April, Earth Day is set aside to emphasize the need to protect and improve our planet. Encourage your mayor and city council to declare it a special date. Then, plan activities to make others aware, such as clean a park area or a littered corner, push recycling, promote a city or neighborhood cleanup, or plant a tree.
- F. Write a Letter to the Editor about Earth Day and its significance.
- G. Plan for your club members to give fun “talks” to local garden clubs, civic clubs, or school groups about Earth Day and about any project you have which could involve them. What if you could involve the whole community?



## **BEE SMART**

### **1. Use Your Brain Power**

- A. Learn about our environmental problems. Go to the library for books and to the internet for information. Look up words like “Living Green,” “Going Green,” “Protecting the Environment” etc. Read about what we as citizens are doing to our wonderful world.
- B. Write a poem or story about protecting our world.
- C. Compile a booklet of students’ poems and stories about protecting our world. Publish the booklet and use as a fund-raiser for a project.
- D. Report to your club or class about Gaylord Nelson, a US Senator from Wisconsin who was very concerned about conservation. Who was he? What does he have to do with Earth Day?
- E. Make a study of polystyrene, the main ingredient in foam plastics (such as Styrofoam cups and plates) and the chemicals released into the air as it is being made. You will also find that it does not decompose! Share your study with everyone who will listen.

### **2. Hands-On Activities**

- A. Make greeting cards using recycled materials: fabric and ribbon remnants, bottle caps, wallpaper samples, buttons, etc.
- B. Use trash items to make sculptures or collages.
- C. Set up recycle bins at school for newspapers, cans, plastic bottles, used jeans.
- D. Be a Living Green – Living Clean role model for your friends, family and classmates.
- E. Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.
- F. Every week pick up all the litter in front of your house.



## **BEE THRIFTY**

### **1. Think Before You Buy**

- A. Skip the bottled water. Buy a reusable water bottle, preferably aluminum rather than plastic.
- B. Recycle your cell phone and ink cartridges.
- C. Buy less “stuff” and shop garage sales, thrift shops and consignment shops for fun retro and vintage clothing items.
- D. Recycle athletic shoes @ [nike'sreuseashoe.com](http://nike'sreuseashoe.com)
- E. Be a water detective. Find ways to use less water around the house. Always turn faucets completely off. If one is leaking, ask dad to fix it. A small drip can waste more than 50 gallons a day. Be sure to get clean, but take shorter showers. Turn off water to use soap (or toothpaste), back on to rinse. Turn on cold water to wash hands, to rinse for the dishwasher. Your parents might like to install a low-flow showerhead. New toilets now use less water.

### **2. Reduce – Reuse - Recycle**

- A. Save and recycle wrappers from Hershey's kisses.
- B. One person using one good quality reusable shopping bag can eliminate 100 plastic bags from landfills and coastal waters each year.
- C. Reuse the plastic bags you receive as small trashcan liners, pet refuse bags or to cushion breakables when shipping items.
- D. Organize a jewelry, book, or DVD exchange at your school. (Bring One – Get One.)
- E. Hang On! Don't throw away your extra wire coat hangers, they can be reused. Sort them and fasten them together neatly, and return to a dry cleaner. Or, take them to a charitable organization which gives clothes to the needy. They need more hangers and at times, needy families need them, too.



## **BEE ACTIVE**

### **1. Making a Difference**

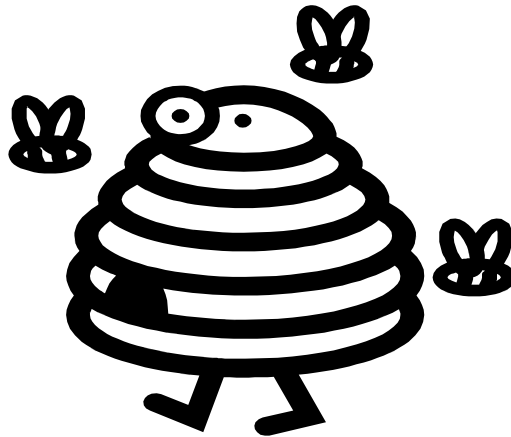
- A. Check out the ideas listed in this booklet. Create some of your own.
- B. Present the ideas to your club, to your teacher and to your class at school. Get everyone involved.
- C. It is important to involve your city's mayor and city council for some projects.
- D. Pick a project, get excited about it, plan it, then do it!

### **2. Taking Action**

- A. Sponsor a competition between classes at your school to collect aluminum cans.
- B. Organize a drive to collect "like new" used toys in first-rate condition to donate to Salvation Army, National Guard Toy Drive, etc.
- C. Grocery Store Trip---Search for Recycled Paper
  - 1. Learn clues to recognize, buy and use products in recycled containers. Make a list of the products and tell parents, club members, and friends. Some clues: Bent arrows or a circle of arrows; some products state "recycled;" white boxes use new material, gray or brown are recycled material. Find other clues or messages.
  - 2. Go to the grocery store as a group and search for recycled packaging. Make a list of the products and the companies using this.
- D. Smart Shoppers Project.
  - 1. Make a list of what you buy now and find a "green" alternative, if needed. (We buy or use cloth towels, not paper towels; or, metal forks, not plastic throwaways; eggs in cardboard cartons, not in styrofoam; compact bulbs, not incandescent; rechargeable batteries; canned drinks in cardboard carrier, not plastic rings.)
  - 2. Check your supplies, find more examples. Show to your parents.
- E. Cut open those plastic rings used to package six-packs of cola. Carefully cut

open all of the loops before discarding. Many end up in our waters. Diving birds and fish get them around their beaks or heads and starve or suffocate. Some rings are not biodegradable, so it is good to buy colas packaged in recycled cartons instead of the plastic rings.

- F. Be a paper saver. Organize a paper collection campaign in your school and Include the community. Plan this with some faculty members. Contact a recycling center and get information. Learn what items they will take. Provide large boxes at your school, including at least one in each classroom, and each student will need a big box at home. Then, instead of discarding paper, put it in your boxes. Save newspapers, magazines, empty envelopes, catalogs, old phone books, unwanted mail, whatever the center will accept. There must be a large container at school to place it all in. The center might provide this, or tell you what to use. Plan a way to turn it all in. If you are paid, find a green way to spend the money.



**BEE AWARE.....BE VERY AWARE !**

Junior Gardeners:

We hope this booklet that has been prepared for you, your classmates, and your family, has helped you to start to think of ways to become a **POWER BEE** – **Protecting Our World's Environment and Resources. We want you to become VERY AWARE of the need to protect our world, and to look for more and more ways to do it. On the next page is a list of some tips for living green. But, there are many, many more. Look for them. Become aware of them. Plug into these ideas with your family.**



## **WE BEE-LIEVE YOU CAN LEAD THE WAY!**

### **SOURCES**

Earth Book For Kids, by Linda Schwartz

Fifty Simple Kids Can Do To Save The Earth, by The Earthworks Group

Hands-On Ecology, by Colleen Kessler

Green Clean, by Linda Mason Hunter

Your state's agriculture centers

Many, many internet sources, such as

National Wildlife Federation

Idealbite.com

Thrivent.com

Care2.com/green living

General topics: living green, going green, green living

Teacher's supply stores

Joy Scriber, Deep South Junior Gardeners Chairman  
P. O. Box 462, Winnsboro, LA 71295  
318-435-6279  
scribe1019@gmail.com



## **BEE Very Aware of Tips for Living Green**

Always shop with reusable cloth bags, which you use over and over. Keep them in the car to help you remember. They are available everywhere. Try to refuse plastic bags.

Shut down and unplug electronics, like computers and chargers.

Wash clothes in cold water. Most energy used by washers goes to heat the water. Wash only full loads. Saves power, water, and money. Try solar drying. That means hang wet clothes outside. Saves a lot of electricity. Close the refrigerator door FAST.

Raise your thermostat in summer. Lower it in winter. Fans to circulate the air help, and keep you cooler while using less electricity.

Run dishwasher only when fully loaded. If everyone did this, it would keep tons of carbon dioxide out of the air each year.

Fill your bottle with filtered tap water, and reuse the bottle. Skip bottled water. Cut way back on your use of plastic and styrofoam. They just don't decompose.

Exchange CD's, DVD's, and books, instead of buying. Also, use the library.

Recycle your electronics. Go to [mygreenelectronics.org](http://mygreenelectronics.org) to find a recycling source.

Buy from local farmers. Saves gas from long truck hauls, and helps the farmer.

Mom getting a new appliance? Choose one with an Energy Star label, to reduce use of electricity, and to save money.

Let your grass grow. It will fare better and will become greener. Leave the grass clippings. This adds nitrogen to the soil and means less in landfills. Feed and water birds. They help the ecosystem in your yard by eating many insects.

Change from incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescents (which are a softer glow now.) They last up to 10 times longer and use about 75% less electricity! Turn off lights when you leave a room. Unplug appliances that glow, and possibly save over \$200 a year.

Repair any dripping faucets or leaky toilets, to stop wasting water down the drain.

Wear and use items longer, and take better care of your toys and clothes.

Buy products made of, or packaged in, recycled paper.