



Steps YOU Can Take to Help Save God's Marvelous Creation

There are many simple things each of us can do in and around our residence to honor God's handiwork.

How many of these are you currently using or practicing?

LED light bulbs

LED bulbs are at least 75% more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs, brighten immediately, can be dimmed, and do not have a shortened lifespan if turned on/off frequently. (Fluorescent lights convert around 95% of the energy they produce into *heat* and only 5% into *light*.)

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/led-lighting>

Weatherstripping

This very simple and relatively low-cost way to improve home energy efficiency reduces air leaks through doors and windows, which can account for 30-40% of a home's overall heating and cooling loss. Choose a product that can withstand the friction, weather, temperature changes, and overall wear-and-tear due to its location. Select the appropriate weatherstripping for the job:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherstripping>

Pollinator plants

Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other animals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food, sustaining our ecosystems, and helping plants reproduce.

Pollinators worldwide are facing grave threats to their survival – and that also has implications for our very way of life. To find pollinator plants suitable for your area:

- Ecoregional planting guides (Pollinator Partnership): <https://www.pollinator.org/guides>
- Native plants database (Audubon): <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
- Native plant finder (National Wildlife Federation): <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

[NOTE: Arizona is not yet listed with NWF – check regularly for updates]

Litter/plastic waste

At least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. Marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, which causes severe injuries and death. Most of the plastic in our oceans comes from **land-based sources**: by weight, 70% to 80% is plastic that is transported from land to the sea via rivers or coastlines. The other 20% to 30% comes from marine sources such as fishing nets, lines, ropes, and abandoned vessels. [International Union for the Conservation of Nature]

Despite the numbers you find on plastic containers, only #1 and #2 plastics can be recycled!

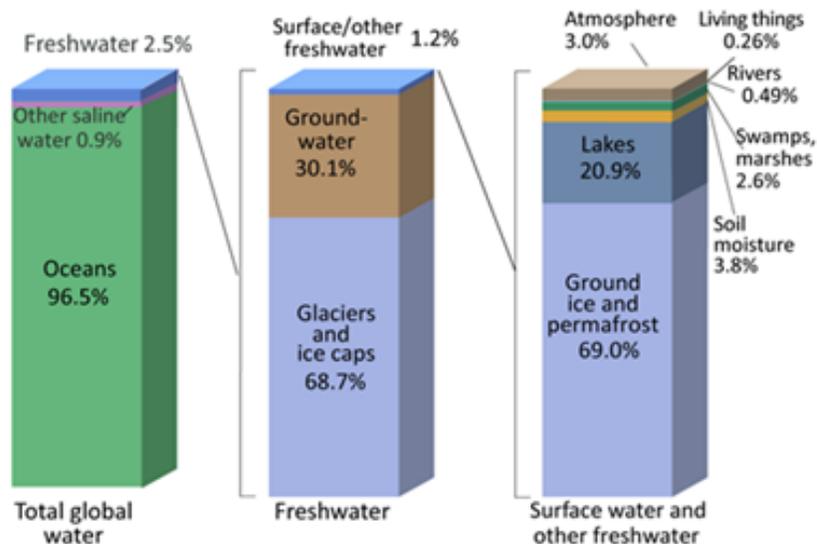
All other plastic (#3-7) is destined for the landfill, but all-too-frequently finds its way into the oceans. Over 300 million tons of plastic are produced every year, half of which is used to create single-use items (shopping bags, cups, straws). Plastic waste harms the environment and biodiversity.

Listen to this NPR podcast, which shines the light on how we have been seriously 'greenwashed' by the petroleum and plastics industries: <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/912150085/waste-land>

Water

One of more precious natural resources, water is something we take for granted – but shouldn't! **Of all the water on the planet, less than 3% is freshwater readily available for all our human demands.**

Where is Earth's Water?



Source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, *Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources*. (Numbers are rounded).

Check with your city's water department to learn how to check for and repair leaks. Does your city offer rebates for exchanging turf with xeriscaping or for purchasing native shrubs and trees? (Tempe does!)

Every time a creature is lost, a piece of God's glory is leaving.
Rachel Field

Wildlife we nearly lost...

Many of God's glorious animals have slid into extinction, but some have made a miraculous recovery. Despite the extirpation of wolves in Yellowstone National Park by 1926, humans realized too late the role of predators to the health of an ecosystem. Within 10 years after their reintroduction in 1995, the park rebounded in both flora and fauna as well as water. Watch "The Lords of Nature" to see how the power of just one species has transformed this park: <https://www.greenfireproductions.org/the-films/lords-of-nature/> (run time 58:44)

The peregrine falcon, bald eagle, American alligator, lesser-long-nosed bat, Apache trout, and many more species have rebounded from near-extinction due to the concentrated efforts of humans.

Want to help?

Become a Citizen Scientist: document what you find in your own neighborhood and help scientific research! Use this free app: Nature's Notebook <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/mobile-app>