

Project Green Challenge

Day 15

GREENER

#Economy

Youxuan Wei

@ChrisCat

More often than not, **when I think in terms of economy, I think of money** -money, demand, and the essentially **infinite number** and amounts of supplies that I can have **as long as I have enough money to buy it.**



Never once, though, Did I think that the SUPPLY that we get comes from the earth, the nature -and **there is FINITE amount of what we can produce, and discard so carelessly of.**

The resources that we base our economy on is called Natural capital -and yes, it **runs out!**

The logo for "everyone", with the word "everyone" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are colored: 'e' is blue, 'v' is green, 'e' is red, 'r' is grey, 'y' is yellow, 'o' is blue, and 'n' is blue. A small trademark symbol (TM) is at the end.

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Project Green Challenge

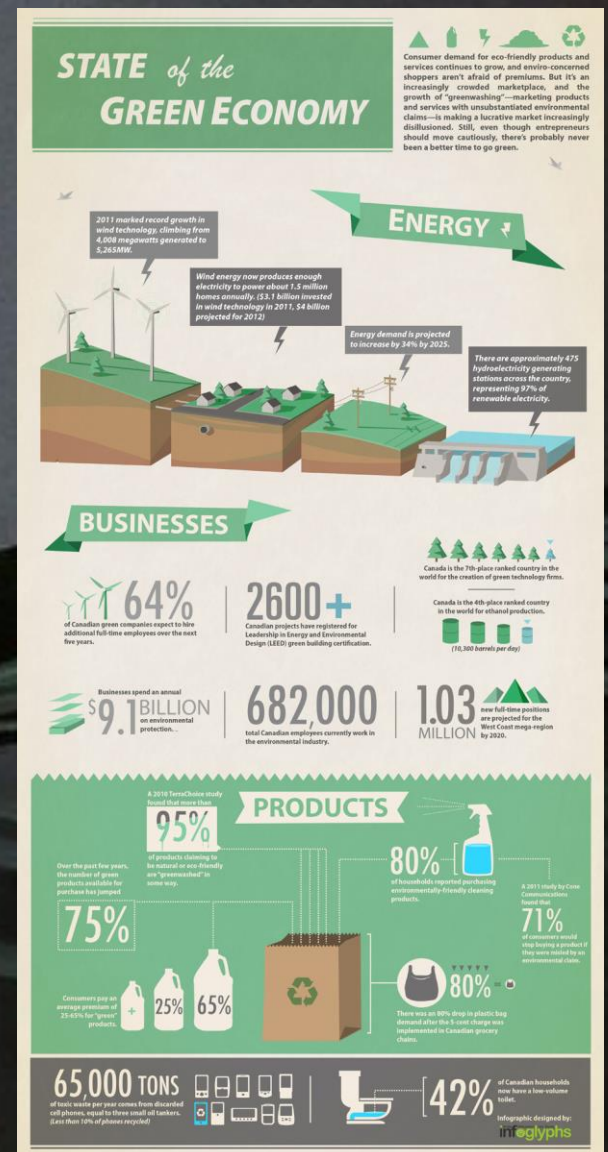
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And these are the things that don't occur to many big companies -they extract and manufacture in destructive and non-sustainable matters.

That's why I think that I need to support more companies like EVERYONE, which considers people, and planet aside from just profits.

Like "Green America" said, our investment is more than money -they have the potential to change our way of thinking, and our future.



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HOW CAN I HELP??

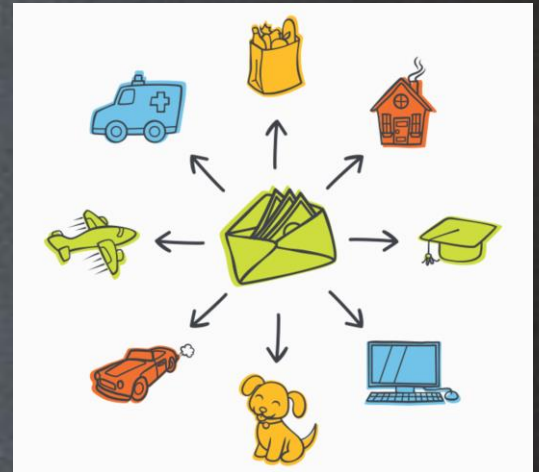
ACTUALLY, It's not hard!

The first thing that “*how to live on a greener budget*” taught me was that you didn't need to buy MORE eco friendly products, **instead, you need to just simply buy LESS.** -Which lighted a light bulb for me! -Even a reusable water bottle takes lots of resources to make, *and now that I think of it, it simply doesn't make sense for me to have six in the name of “being greener”!*



I also Learned that DIY at home and buying thrift saves lots of money, too! Check it out 😊

<http://www.puregreenmag.com/pure-green-blog/budget-friendly-green-living>



Also, I need to plan more. Spending money on a whim (especially with clothes) is my biggest problem. *From now on, I need to ask myself “Do I REALLY need it?” “Is it good for the environment?”*

Now I understand that **as a consumer, I don't just spend** -I have the **responsibility** to make my dollars contribute to better treated employees, or better environment.

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MY BUDGET RIGHT NOW

I don't ever track my money on a budget-that's what I need to work on!

	Things that I spend on	How I spend my money	Estimated cost per week
1	Lunch	I buy at school	\$3.00/day \$15.00/week
2	Going to School	My dad drives me(gas)	\$15.00
3	Printing papers(I debate so I print lots)	Single sided	\$3.00
4	Clothes/shoes shopping	No plans at all, would spend a lot If feel like it	\$15
5	Watching movies	No plans, usually 2times/month	\$6
6	Eating out	No plans for the place, or the prices of the meal	\$30
7	Buying books	I buy paperbacks	\$5
8	Buying creams & Cosmetics	At non-organic/ecofriendly companies	\$10/week
9	Paint, canvas, decorations	Get them whenever I run out	\$15/ weel
10	Food shopping w. mom	Use a lot of plastic bags, no bulk store, lots of packaging	\$30-40/week
11	Lundreys (water, electricity)	I wear things once and wash them, and always dry my clothes for extra time just so I can wear them warm 😊	~\$4-6
12	Air conditioning at home	Always on	Electricity/gas \$70-90

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DISCRETIONARY DOLLARS:

Eating out, air conditioning, gas (for driving to school)

-When my dad told me our **heating/cooling bills** goes to **almost \$300 a month**, I was really shocked! *A lot of spending also shows a lot of resources used by us*- I think that it's a waste, just the three of us to use so much energy.

-**Same thing with driving to school**. We drive a 7 seater with just me and my dad, with him driving back home by himself the 10 miles. (whoa I feel so wasteful now that I'm thinking about this)

MONEY NOT SO WELL SPENT:

I vote with my dollars, and now I think that maybe not all of them went to good use.

TAKE GROCERY SHOPPING for example: *We get 10-20 plastic bags every week that we shop, with meat double-bagged unnecessarily*. When we lived in Beijing, these bags were charged so that everyone was forced to bring durable, reusable ones. *I think that even if something's FREE, doesn't mean that I can take advantage* at the vast amount of things that I'm granted with at the expense of others (polluted earth, communities, cheap labor...)

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LIFESTYLE CHANGED:
I SAVED \$6552 &
ENVIRONMENT!

	Things that I spend on	How I WILL CHANGE	\$\$\$ SAVED (per week)
1	Lunch	Bring my own -no more plastic plates/forks	Environment!
2	Going to School	Take the free school bus	\$15.00
3	Printing papers (I debate so I print lots)	Double sided	\$3.00
4	Clothes/shoes shopping	Share with mom!	\$15
5	Movies	Borrow from the library	\$6
6	Eating out	DIY, try cool recipes at home	\$30
7	Buying books	Ebook , rent from lib	\$5
8	Buying creams & Cosmetics	Less is more -I'll stick with simple soap, or acure	\$15/week
9	Paint, canvas, decorations	Buy bulk, by it on sale (keep track for when I'm almost out of paint)	\$5
10	Food shopping w. mom	Bring my own bag	Said no to plastic bags 😊
11	Lundreys (water, electricity)	Hang my clothes to dry, washer with water conserves.	~\$2
12	Air conditioning at home	Open the windows, or just add more clothes in the winter 😊	Electricity/gas \$30
		TOTAL SAVINGS/YEAR:	\$6552!!!

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CONCLUSIONS:

By being a more conscious consumer and really thinking about conserving money and resources, I was able to cut back on a majority of my costs.

But more importantly, I was able to make my money into good use -Bringing my lunch with reusable containers, taking the bus, turning off the air conditioner, buying less and more organic, and shopping greener to support more eco friendly companies & use less plastic bags...

I really think that changing my thinking process is going to change my impact on those around me -I will learn how to be greener in a smarter way 😊



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