

# GREEN POLICY

THESE DAYS, WE HEAR PHRASES SUCH AS 'GLOBAL WARMING' AND 'CLIMATE CHANGE' – BUT WHAT CAN WE ACTUALLY DO TO HELP? LEARN HOW SMALL CHANGES TO OUR LIFESTYLES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO OUR WORLD – AND OUR BUDGET

We've all heard about how changes are happening to the world around us. Scientists predict that the global temperature will rise, water will become more of a problem and that plants and animals, including complex ecosystems such as Australia's own Great Barrier Reef, are in danger of extinction.

Fossil fuels – coal, crude oil and natural gas – are our main source of energy, but there is only a limited amount of these, and they are running out. We're generating more and more rubbish, which is filling our landfill sites, and increased paper use is depleting our forests. So, in short, the less of everything we use, the better for the environment.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Drop the drips – Check your taps for leaks and replace washers if necessary.
- Bottle it – Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap until the water's cool.
- Turn it off – Leaving your appliances on standby can contribute as much as 10 per cent of your annual electricity bill. Turn your TV and other appliances off at the switch, as long as you don't have to reset them every time.
- Veg out – Conserve water by washing your vegies over a large jug, then using the water on your plants.
- Email is just that – Think twice before you print out your emails – save paper by only printing those you really must.
- Do it again...and again and again! – Lots of products that are actually recyclable end up being thrown out
- with other rubbish, taking up as much as 20 per cent of landfill space. Go to [www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au) to find out exactly what you can recycle.

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **Costing a packet** – So many products we buy are overpackaged. Try to avoid using unnecessary packaging. If you're just buying one of something, ask yourself if you really need to put it in a clear plastic bag.
- **Fuel for thought** – Use less fuel by driving efficiently. Change up through the gears as quickly as possible, make sure tyres are properly inflated and don't drive faster than you need to – driving at speeds above 90kph increases fuel usage dramatically. Bike and roof racks cause drag, which increases fuel consumption.

# WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- **Package deal** – Nestlé Australia is committed to ensuring its packaging meets its environmental obligations. In line with the introduction of the revised National Packaging Covenant, Nestlé has undertaken to adhere to the covenant's strict new recommendations, and to undergo regular audits of its packaging practices. Jacky Nordsvan, Nestlé packaging specialist, explains, "The aims of the covenant are: to increase the recycling of post-consumer waste from 48 per cent to 65 percent; to increase the recycling of non-recyclable packaging from 10 per cent to 25 per cent; and to ensure there is no further increase of packaging to landfill."
- **Water result** – In the past five years, Nestlé has reduced water consumption globally by more than 40 per cent and reduced wastewater generation by 42.4 per cent. Worldwide initiatives include new wastewater treatment plants and upgrades to existing plants in order to reduce water consumption. Karen Duncan, Nestlé environment manager, explains, "There are increasing requirements by government for us to demonstrate more efficient use of water, so we need to do more."
- **As a user of energy**, Nestlé Oceania understands the importance of working towards reducing its use of resources. Since 2003, Nestlé has achieved a 15 per cent reduction in energy use per tone of product. "This is a great result," says Karen Duncan. "As part of the efforts to reduce energy use, our sites develop energy reduction plans annually to identify opportunities, responsibilities and timeframes for achievements."