

Top 10 Tips for Beating the Excuse and Greening Your Summer:



10. Replace and re-use. Re-use? What's the point of getting disposable things if I re-use them? Well, by using a re-useable tote bag OR storage container for packing your lunch you will save cash and have a great bag to carry your beach or camping stuff in!

9. Spend two to learn. There is no place around here to recycle . . . You gotta be kidding! In the time it takes to read this, you could easily find out whether your community participates in a recycling program and what can be recycled. Visit YouGottaBeKidding.org, spend two minutes looking around, and you'll be recycling in no time.

8. Create a recycling center. "But, my recycling center is also known as my coffee table!" We hear this a lot. You *can* find a convenient place to collect recyclable items in your home and leave more room to kick back and watch the ballgame. Most recyclable items come from the kitchen so if you have the space (even a pantry or closet would work!), make that your recycling hub. Label and place a recycling bin, bag or box near the trash can to capture what you normally throw out.

7. Change a light. Why should I take the time to change the light bulbs in my house – does it *really* matter? One compact fluorescent bulb will last 10 times longer than a traditional bulb. Even just one light bulb change can make a difference and save \$30 over its lifetime. (Make sure to recycle the CFL properly when it's done!)

6. Donate. No one wants my old stuff . . . You gotta be kidding! Donate unwanted items to charities like the Salvation Army or Goodwill. Just because you don't need that Stairmaster or lawn mower anymore, doesn't mean someone else won't!

5. Stay at green hotels. Are these hotels doing anything green other than taking all the green from my pocket? Actually, yes! Green hotels commit to environmentally sustainable practices, such as installing low-flow shower heads or have in-room recycling bins.

4. Turn it up. And be mistaken as the pig at the roast? You gotta be kidding! No, we're not asking you to roast in the summer heat, but turning up your thermostat even just a few degrees will save you money and limit harmful emissions. It's recommended that you set the thermostat to 78 degrees while at home and 85 degrees (or off altogether) when you're not. If you feel uncomfortably hot at 78 degrees, invest in a few ceiling fans to get cool air circulating throughout your house.

3. Bag it! How can I practice my three pointers if I bag my empty soda cans? Well, let's be honest, you aren't going to be part of the next Dream Team anyway. But, by bringing only a bag for recyclables with you on long car trips, you won't be tempted to litter or throw recyclables in the trash. Simply recycle the items when you reach your destination or when you get home.



2. Rethink the “Green Party.” I’m not even interested in politics! Even better, as this party has no affiliation! Throwing a green party of your own encourages guests to get into the theme by only bringing reusable or recyclable items (such as a reusable platter for those Deviled eggs.) Play “oldies,” use fresh and local ingredients for your menu and of course, use re-useable utensils and plates. Keep small recycling bins around the house and backyard to discourage guests from trashing recyclable items.

And finally...DCA's number one recommendation for greening your summer is:

1. Recycle all that you can. You are probably trashing a lot more recyclable stuff than you think. And if you think your community recycling program can't handle it all? Think again. They can. Connect with your local recycling program by visiting YouGottaBeKidding.org.

