



Plants Versus Gamers

How to achieve high scores and help out Mother Nature at the same time

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Right: Chuck this on your bag and convince your friend that you're actually from the future.

Below: Put your consoles to sleep for the night with the EcoSwitch

■ Odds are, you've probably already saved the planet. Maybe even a few times. Hell, I bet you've even been responsible for saving the entire universe from certain total destruction.

Unfortunately, keeping the world safe from alien invasion/ black holes/ dragons inside a game isn't quite the same as saving the actual, real planet. You know, the one we live on. The one with all the ozone issues and trees that aren't rendered by overworked programmers- Matrix conspiracy theories aside, of course.

But fear not, valiant hero! You can still act out your dreams of saving our beautiful mother earth IRL. And you definitely should be interested in saving it. Why? Well, maybe because it's in major distress right now and there's no emergency evacuation shuttle waiting to whisk us all off to the safety of a utopian space station, or another perfectly inhabitable lush planet parked just over the other side of the Milky Way. I know, lied to once again by sci-fi.

This planet needs us. Seriously. We not only need to be neutralising our impact on it, but also put some good stuff back in so that it doesn't blow us all up in the ultimate act karmic retribution ever inflicted on mankind. Thought



leaving your consoles on standby all night didn't bother sweet ol' Mama Nature? You thought wrong, sucker.

And if that's not enough of an incentive for you, just remember that this planet is the only one with video games.

So if you're committed to taking the pledge to become a green warrior without having to actually relinquish anything with a carbon emission from your life, then it's time to consider the following handy little tools to help you on your quest. They're super easy to acquire and put in to use in both your everyday life and gaming routine- so no more



"IT'S KIND OF AN EXCUSE TO SPEND A LITTLE MORE MONEY ON THOSE STEAM SALES. IT'S OKAY, I'M DOING IT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!"

excuses! Your planet needs you!

Power Monkey eXplorer

One of the many solar power chargers currently flooding the market, I personally chose this one because it sounds like a mean stance one would assume during an air guitar shredding battle. Also, just look at all the pretty colours. All four of them. Just mesmerising. This little baby can be used to charge portable consoles. You can just

strap it onto your backpack and walk around uni, collecting StreetPass invites on your Ds and ignoring all the weird looks other students are giving you because oh yeah, you are literally harnessing the power of the freakin' sun right now. It's also water resistant, tough as nails, super light and self-monitoring so you can leave all that confusing energy cell crap to the real nerds.

EcoSwitch Standby Power Switch

I am a wealthy person. Not because I have a lot of money (I don't), but because I live in a badly renovated old house that is teeming with power points. Like,

Below: Gardens. Gardens EVERYWHERE.



of power whilst on standby mode? Seriously, buttloads. According to the Natural Resources Defence Council, the PS4 and Xbox One consume almost three times more energy than the previous generation. Luckily, this little invention lends a helping hand. It shuts off entire power boards with one easy-to-reach switch, which not only saves you money but also helps the planet. Hurray!

Digital downloads

Sure, having an extensive collection of hard copies of games looks pretty awesome next to your TV. But do we really need more plastic in the world? Just think of all the packaging that goes in to each game case- the useless little leaflets, the hard plastic case that breaks with the slightest touch, the grimy plastic sleeve that goes over it. Most of the time you're not even lucky enough to get a bloody map with it. Just plastic, plastic and more plastic. That isn't impressive- it's downright wasteful. It's 2014, people. Time to start thinking digital with your game purchases. Plus, it's kind of an excuse to spend a little more money on those Steam sales. It's okay, I'm doing it for the environment!

Rechargeable batteries

We live in an age where wires and cables are slowly disappearing. Batteries, however, are not. Those things are seriously nasty for the earth when they end up in landfill, not to mention expensive. Cross those disposable suckers off your shopping list and grab some rechargeable batteries for all your controllers.

Used consoles

Did you know that the plastic used to make your beloved consoles doesn't decompose? Well, now you do. So don't go throwing those things in the compost, yeah? But seriously, there's no need to be spending your hard-earned dollars on over-produced, brand new consoles when you can employ the ethos of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! Buying a used console is like saving a big hunk of toxic plastic from landfill. Except that bug hunk of toxic plastic is saving you a lot of money and will provide you with hours of joy and entertainment. Check out Gumtree, EB Games or even Cash Converters for a whole bunch of pre-loved bargain consoles.