

Are you a friend of the Earth?

Take this quiz to see if your environmental awareness measures up

We all like to think we're responsible citizens on Spaceship Earth, but it's so hard. Many days it's tough enough just getting to and from work or school and putting dinner on the table. But take this quiz as a family or as an individual and see how you stack up and how easy it is to become more eco-aware. Check off all the answers that apply to you, add up the points and then look at the eco-scoring guide at the end of the quiz.

There's no failing grade; every point you make notes a positive action you are taking for the environment. You can start by giving yourself 1 point if you celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970. Yes, it's cheating, but adults need all the help they can get.

1. Check each term that you can define:
(each check worth 1 point)

- global warming
- dioxin
- leachate
- acid rain
- ozone depletion
- xeriscaping

2. Check your mode(s) of transportation.
Do you: (1 point per check mark)

- Travel by bike
- Take mass transit
- Carpool
- Walk to work or school
- Work at home
(People who drive alone get no points.)



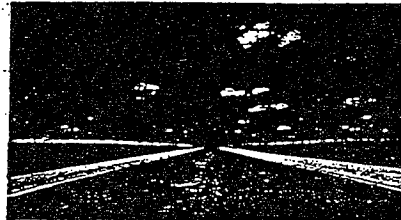
PHOTO BY LYNN DOUGLAS

3. What's your personal style? Do you:

- Never litter, even when no one's watching
- Pick up some public litter occasionally
- Plan to participate in Earth Day weekend
- Lobby for brown coffee filters and paper cups in your office coffee pool
- Have reusable plastic containers for leftovers
- Snip plastic six-pack rings so birds and fish don't swallow or get entangled in them
- Keep abreast of environmental news via TV, newspapers, magazines or books

4. Do you or your family:

- Have a fuel-efficient car rather than a gas hog
- Drive within the speed limit (Be honest now!)
- Have your car tuned/serviced regularly to limit harmful emissions
- Save water by washing your car at home instead of at a car wash
- Reduce car trips by grouping errands or walking



5. Do you recycle:

- Newspapers
- Aluminum cans
- Glass containers (1 bonus point if you're vigilant about separating green, brown and white bottles)

6. Are you environmentally aware at home? Do you:

- Have water-saving shower heads
- Use non-toxic alternatives like cedar chips in closets instead of mothballs
- Shut off running water while brushing teeth or shaving
- Set the heat on 65°F during day, lower at night
- Use new compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Turn off lights when not needed
- Put on a sweater when your place gets chilly rather than turn up heat
- Use fans or open windows instead of automatically turning on air conditioning
- Have a water displacer in your toilet tank
(You can use a plastic bottle weighted with stones.)

7. When you shop, do you avoid:

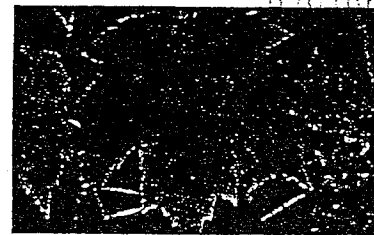
- Plastic-foam products (cups, trays, cartons)
- Single-serving containers
- Plastic disposable razors
- Plastic and brown shopping bags
(Eco-alternative: Bring your own bag)
- Detergents containing harmful phosphates
- Parents: Your chance to score an eco-advantage!
Give yourself 2 points if you shun disposable diaper 1 point if you use them on your baby occasionally.

8. How's your activism? In the last year, have you:

- Written a letter or called a company or legislator about a product/environmental concern
- Been active in a group furthering environmental policies
- Donated money to an environmental or animal conservation group
- Used or started a recycling program in your community, school or business

9. There are additional ways most homeowners can make a difference outdoors. Do you:

- Have a compost pile
- Water your lawn only at dawn or dusk to minimize evaporation
- Avoid using chemicals or pesticides on your lawn or garden
- Avoid putting clippings in plastic trash bags



ECO-SCORING GUIDE

Since only homeowners could answer question No. 9, their scores are likely to be higher. So we've set up two scoring scales. Match your total (one point for each check mark) to the corresponding category, from eco-novice to eco-clite.

Score: 28 and up
(for homeowners, 31 and up)

ECO-ELITE. You're well aware of environmental issues for the '90s and ways you can make a difference. You're brimming with environmental action and are helping make the Earth a better place to live. Congratulations! But don't rest on your laurels. Keep working and spreading the word.

Score: 18-27 (for homeowners, 21-30)

ECO-AVID. You've made environmental action part of your everyday life. Good work. You're making impact in your community and setting a good example for others.

Score: 9-17 (for homeowners, 9-20)

ECO-AWARE. Your heart is in the right place; you realize your actions have an environmental impact. You're looking for ways to improve your lifestyle; you're letting others act for you.

Score: 0-8

ECO-NOVICE. Taking this quiz shows that you do care. But there's plenty more that you can do. Try some of the ideas in this quiz. Don't be discouraged.

Are You a Friend of the Earth?

1. Read and score yourself for the 9 areas on the quiz.
2. Put your score for each section to the next category.
For Example category one Moran scored 6/6
3. Add up your total score and write it down next to your spot on the eco scoring guide
4. Circle your area on the Eco-Scoring Guide
5. Circle and Label your best & worst of the 9 areas
6. This quiz is worth 25 points

RECYCLING STATISTICS

100% Recycled <u>Materials</u>	Energy Saved	Air Pollution Reduced	Source Waste Reduced	Water Saved	Water Pollution Reduced	Materials Saved
Paper	23-70%	60-73%	39%	61%	15-61%	17 trees/ton
Glass	8%	20%	80%	50%	50%	54%
Steel	47-75%	86%	97%	40%	75%	90%
Aluminum	96%	96%	100%	95%	91%	98%

*Eaton County Extension Office - September 1990