

Recycle Money!

It ain't easy being green, but it's fun and rewarding



by **connie kao**
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Going green: it's the new "in thing." Al Gore is the man of the hour. Solar panels, recycling opportunities... we have corn syrup straws and cups and lids at my work now, which are so biodegradable that all you have to do is throw some hot water on them and they warp.

It's neat that we can have recycled-glass-bottle earrings, recycled tote bags, and a Radiohead shirt made from tiny fragments of PET bottles. Mhmm soft. Even restaurants are recycling their food.



They serve a meal to the patron and keep all the leftovers and re-serve them. Just kidding about that last part. But there are earth-friendly restaurants — just not ones that serve leftovers.

Recycling has become hip and fashionable, but there are still people who haven't caught on. The whole "help the earth because our children's grandchildren will reap the consequences" thing makes us recognize the problem but some people are near sighted to where they don't give a flying f.

Which is fine. I'm not condemning anyone.

If we really want people to start getting excited about going green, we need to hit them with a problem that's going on right now, not some distant future. Let's give recycling immediacy and relevance, instead of just making it hip.



Of course I'm talking about The Economy. Sure the environment's swell, but the economy really rings my bell.

So what's my solution?

GO GREEN. RECYCLE MONEY.

See, here's the problem. People are concerned about their economic status. They use their heads, look at their spending habits, and realize they didn't need that Margaritaville blender. Very sensibly, they realize they could cut down on their expenditures.

Well, my neighbor thinks so too. As does her grandmother. And her employer. And her niece. Along with her evil twin So everyone here has gone through careful thinking and realized "hey I should stop spending; I want to ensure more stability in my finances." It's logical.

But everyone is thinking the same thing. Even the richest of the rich think that they don't need that extravagant luxury item. They think by not spending they're helping the economy.

But then what happens? No one's buying anything. Everyone's gone bankrupt.

Boo hoo.

That is why everyone should hire me as the next economist, because I say: Let's recycle money.

You see those green bucks? Recycle them. Use them and they'll come back to you. Those green bucks go into businesses' accounts. The businesses do better. They can keep people employed now. No more pay cuts, lay offs.

People are feeling more secure in their jobs. They start spending yet more money. Pump money into the economy, and it flows back into people's pockets. That's how it works. It takes two to tango. You can't just hoard all your dough and expect the economy to keep spitting money at you.

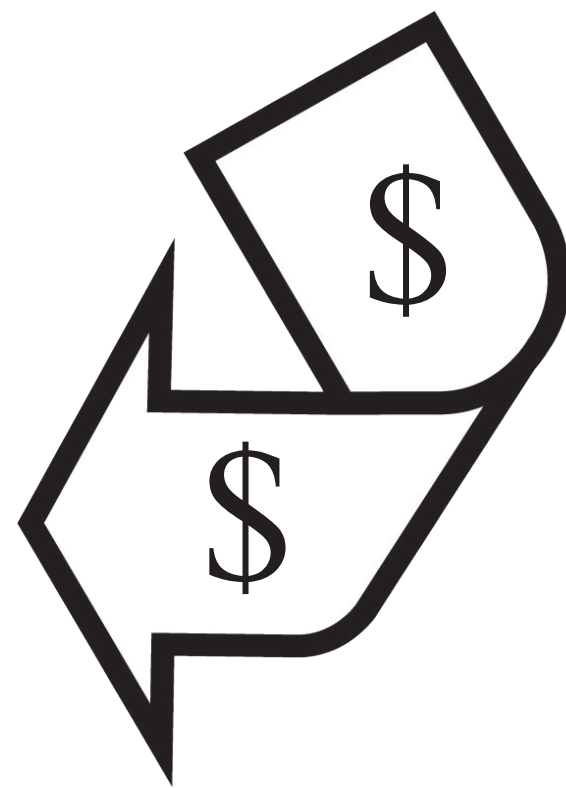
Hiding money away and refusing to spend just creates a downward spiral where it is impossible for stores and businesses to do well when there's no new money to be had. And when the stores aren't doing well, peo-

ple aren't willing to spend. When there's not an equal and opposite reaction there's nothing. There's just a bunch of negating, and that's no fun.

So spending makes perfect logical sense, and many people see the logic, but they refuse to be the person willing to spend the money and possibly lose it. And one person is not going to make a huge difference. So we have to strategize.

I figure we already have it imprinted in our brains that going green is good. It's one of those things where people will really stare you down if you don't believe in saving the environment. And the economy is an even more pressing matter that relates to us now, in real time. Not for the future generations ahead.

So spread the word. Tell all your friends about it!



Sample conversation:

A: So I like this going green campaign. Recycling is the shizz.

B: Yeah it is!

A: So I say why don't we recycle money? We spend it, it comes back, and it saves our weak ailing economy.

B: You're right! Because I really care about recycling!

A: It's settled, we'll recycle money. Now ... where do I get the money from? ■

*Connie Kao keeps a compost heap in her apartment ... gross.
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