

Protecting Biodiversity 24 hours a day

At home...

1. Make sure pet cats are enclosed (cats with open access to the outdoors are responsible for the deaths of many native birds, lizards, snakes and other animals). Cats (and dogs) are a serious risk to native wildlife.

2. Use natural Australian plant alternatives. Synthetic and Toxicity will both make essential alternatives, as well as having medicinal properties.

3. Learn a green skill - but after injured wildlife. Many people, including ABC presenter Richard Marcraft have learnt how to care for injured birds, possums and wallabies.

4. If you are buying furniture or building with wood, choose recycled (sustainable) timber, plantation timber, or laminated or composite timbers made of wood scraps.

5. It's a leaky tap and can save 50 litres of water per day. The more water we save, the fewer natural areas have to be ploughed to create more dams.

In the garden...

6. Build a compost heap. Shred and compost garden waste rather than dumping them in the bush or taking them to the tip. Worms (such as earthworms, holly and ground) provide food & shelter for animals.

7. Make your own environmentally sound herbicide. Herbicide is important habitat for hundreds of species, particularly Goshawk, and should be left in the bush.

8. Make your garden a home for biodiversity - avoid using chemicals, plant local natives to attract birds, offer native ground covers such as protea/Grevillea instead of lawn. Native gardens are also cheaper because they need less water, pesticides and fertilisers.

In the neighbourhood...

9. Protect your open space. Biodiversity relies on many important places, such as reserves, nature sanctuaries, nature strips, local parks, neighbourhood. Keep these places as green as possible and encourage local native plants to grow there.

10. Find out about planned local developments from the library or council. Land clearing and urban sprawl is the single biggest cause of biodiversity loss in Australia. Developers must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for many projects.

11. Grow local native species in your parks. Community plantings and biodiversity government authorities and councils to make your neighbourhood more attractive.

Shopping...

12. Shop to reduce resource use. Go for products with recyclable or no packaging. Reducing resource use puts less pressure on the natural environment and the biodiversity it contains.

13. Take your own bag shopping. Plastics, such as bags and beer can holders, are often made from toxic and harmful chemicals that get into the ocean.

14. Buy organically grown food where possible. Where any pesticides, herbicides and insecticides, they can harm or kill native birds and fish.

At work...

15. Recycle paper at the office, and at home. If 10 Australian companies, we could save more than 40 million trees each year.

16. Create a more green office. Place of work, especially if you work in the food or hospitality industry. More meetings are an important source of organic fertilizer (and could be a source of additional income).

On holidays...

17. Drive slowly at dawn and dusk, and where there are more native animals. Many native animals get killed on the road early in the morning and at the end of the day when they come out to feed by the roadside.

18. Take a tour with an Aboriginal company. Get a different perspective on biodiversity and how Australia plant and animal species have existed a culture over thousands of years.

19. Visit a national park close to home and ask the ranger about the biodiversity there. Take only photographs, leave only footprints.

20. Get involved with a Bushcare or Greening Australia group and spend the weekend with friends restoring natural habitats on degraded land. (Environment Australia, phone 1800 805 773)