

# Buying Cool Stuff



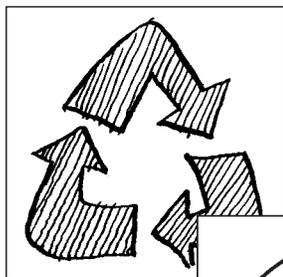
Cars, stereos, TVs, and VCRs all can be "energy smart."

**T**here are lots of ways we can improve the environment. One of the ways is to buy products that don't use as much energy.

By conserving energy, we can help reduce global warming and make the earth a better place. Some products—like cars and stereos—are made especially to save energy.

### Some Things to Think About

Did you know that you can help the environment if you buy recyclable products instead of nonrecyclable ones? Look for the recycle mark—three arrows that make a circle—on the package. Recyclable products are usually made out of things that already have been used. It usually takes less energy to make recycled products than to make new ones. The less energy we use, the better.

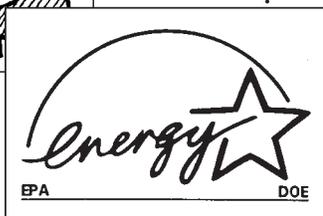


The "recycle" symbol.

### Solar Energy

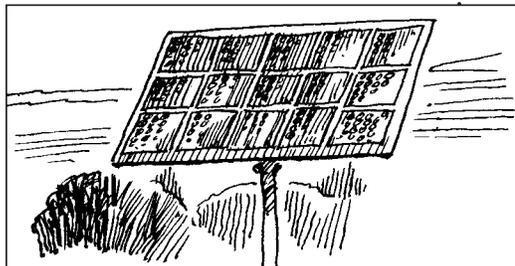
Imagine that it's a hot summer day. You put a scoop of ice cream on the sidewalk, and it melts. Why? Well, you probably know that the sun causes the ice cream to melt. But you may not know that the sun produces solar energy. Solar energy is a fancy way of saying "energy that comes from the sun." Solar energy can be used to heat homes, buildings, water, and to make electricity. Today, more than 200,000 houses in the United States take advantage of the sun's energy.

The "ENERGY STAR" symbol.



### Cars

Cars are an important part of life for most people. But cars also cause pollution and release a lot of greenhouse gases into the air. Fortunately, there are some cars that are better for the environment. These cars can travel longer on a smaller amount of gasoline. They don't pollute as much, either. Using these kinds of cars can help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the air.



Solar panels such as these can provide electricity to buildings.

### ENERGY STAR®

Many things, like computers, TVs, stereos, and VCRs, have special labels on them. The label says "Energy" and has a picture of a star. Products with the ENERGY STAR® label are made to save energy. Buying products with ENERGY STAR® labels will help protect the environment. To learn about ENERGY STAR®, visit <http://www.epa.gov/energystar.html>

