



THE GREEN LIFE



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Green Ideas Thrive in Tough Times



Is there a bright side to the recession? [Green priorities are remaining strong](#), while old ideas like [victory gardens](#) and [thriftness](#) are [making a comeback](#). A recent post on the Green Skeptic encourages readers to use the [economic crisis as a reason to get creative](#). [Holland Cotter at the New York Times hopes the recession-hit art world will respond with fresh ideas](#) and limit-pushing new work. In short, many green types are responding to crisis with more ingenuity and drive than ever.

Why We're Hopeful: From smart DIY projects like this [hat made from recycled plastic bags](#) to clever new products like [chairs made from recycled newspapers](#) and [clothing made from recycled pop bottles](#), the green lifestyle is spreading in new and creative ways. Eco-artists are sending powerful messages about climate change and sustainability: Two of our recent favorites are [Hongtao Zhou's icy "climate furniture"](#) and [Yuken Teruya's recycled toilet paper roll sculptures](#).

What You Can Do: Join the green craft revolution and save money by [sewing or mending your own clothes](#), growing and [canning your own food](#), and reusing "trash" to make what you need. Web sites such as [DIY Life](#), [How Can I Recycle This?](#), [Make, Craft](#), and [Instructables](#) offer ideas, tips, and tutorials for making and mending. Got some extra cash? Don't forget to support your local green businesses.

--Della Watson

Share your tips: What are your money-saving ideas for reusing and recycling?

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