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The Right to Repair Movement

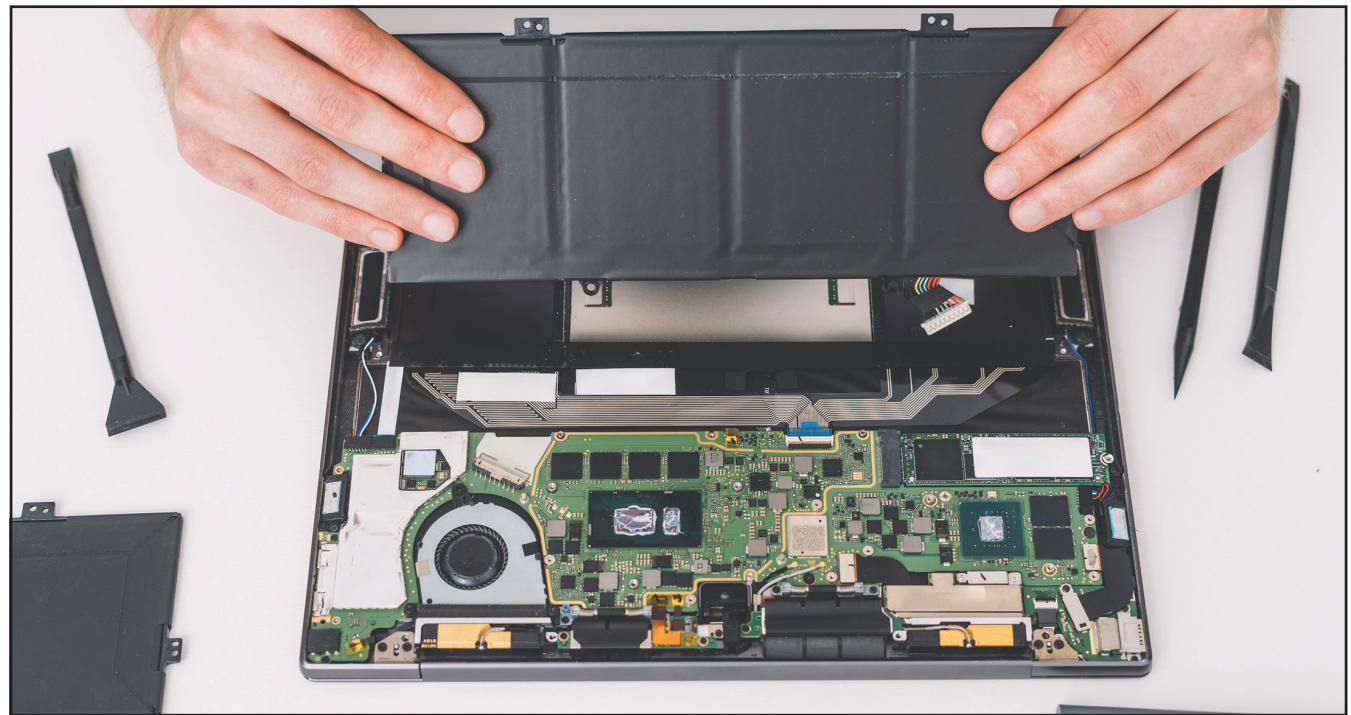
BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

If we've bought it, it's ours to do what we please with, or so it may seem. However, with many items in our modern life, that's not exactly the case.

In many cases, especially with electronics and automobiles, the manufacturers require their own tools, services or software to repair things. The concept "right to repair" is that owners of devices, equipment and vehicles have the right to freely maintain, repair or modify their things as they see fit, and there's a movement to push back against manufacturers' requirements for repair or modification.

What is the Right to Repair?

Manufacturers' restrictions on access to parts, tools, software and more creates a repair monopoly, the Digital Right to Repair Coalition says. That locks independent repair shops out of making repairs, often forcing consumers to pay higher prices for repair or opt to purchase another



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item. The coalition says manufacturers withhold repair documentation, making do-it-yourself repairs more difficult and dangerous. Some manufacturers block third-party options. For example, the group says

some tractor manufacturers put equipment into a limp mode until proprietary dealer software clears the errors.

If consumers could repair their products, proponents say, fewer things such as electronics and appliances

would be trashed for new. Items could be kept in use longer and more sustainably. U.S. PIRG, another advocate for right-to-repair legislation, says Americans purchase 160 million new smartphones each year, using 23.7 million tons of raw material. That level of consumption isn't sustainable, it says.

Right-to-Repair Movement

People in a variety of industries as well as regular people who want more control of their things are pushing for legislation to force manufacturers to sell

spare parts at a reasonable price to owners and independent repair shops, make repair information available, and allow repair professionals and product owners to access tools needed for repairs.

Eight states have passed right-to-repair legislation and it has been introduced in all 50 states. It has been repeatedly introduced at the federal level but has failed to make it out of Congress. States with right-to-repair laws include California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Texas and Maine.



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The Carbon Cost of Get it Now

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Fast shipping is a part of modern life and consumers are becoming conditioned to getting whatever they buy online as soon as the next day, at minimum.

But while this may be free shipping for consumers, it comes at a high cost to the planet.

Fast shipping increases emissions 10-12%, MIT research scientist Sreedevi Rajagoplan told the Associated Press. That comes from trucks leaving warehouses while not full, looping neighborhoods several times a day and even using airplanes to make sure the things we buy arrive as fast as possible.

“Consumers need to acknowledge that just a click of their mouse has physical and environmental repercus-

sions,” says UC Davis’ Miguel Jaller, co-director of the Sustainable Freight Research Center. “Consolidation is what drives better efficiency. That’s why public transit is better than everybody using their own cars — you are consolidating a lot of trips in one train or bus. The more packages you can consolidate in one vehicle, the less resources you’re using.”

However, when consumers demand quick delivery, companies prioritize speed over sustainability. Some companies even use passenger cars to deliver packages driven by workers with no logistics training, creating more congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

It’s up to consumers, experts say, to take steps to



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reduce the carbon footprint of our e-commerce habits. Jaller encourages shoppers to avoid impulse buys and think ahead, planning purchases more carefully and avoiding returns. Companies can take steps to be more transparent about the environmental

effects of deliveries and offer consumers a more green option.

“It would be good if companies can educate consumers about the differences because right now the consumer may only see that all delivery options are free, so why would they choose

something that takes longer,” Jaller asks.

Delaying delivery by one or two days can result in a 36% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and opting for three to four days pushes that up to 56%, Sreedevi says. He adds that people are more likely to delay or consolidate orders once they have a good understanding of the environmental impact of fast shipping. Sreedevi says a 2024 study of consumers in Mexico backs that up.

“A significant number of consumers decided to wait for longer delivery or delayed their shipping when we showed them the environmental impact information in the form of trees,” Sreedevi says. “So, it’s important that they are educated.”

Simple steps to protect the environment

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Protecting the environment is a goal that everyone can help to accomplish. The greatest threats to the planet are primarily driven by human activity. Climate change, habitat loss and biodiversity loss are notable challenges of the environmental crisis, says the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Although it may seem like major overhauls are needed to protect the planet, small, consistent changes in how people behave also can have a lasting impact.

The following are some simple steps to effect environmental change.

- **Eat more plants.**

Choosing plant-based proteins like beans, lentils and nuts in place of red meat a few nights per week can have an impact on land and water use required for raising livestock.

- **Plan meals.** Planning meals can help to greatly



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reduce food waste. Stanford University reports that 40 percent of edible food in the United States is wasted. Planning meals and using leftovers creatively can keep excess waste out of landfills.

- **Rely on LED lights.**

LED bulbs last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. LEDs also consume

75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs.

- **Adjust the thermostat.**

Keeping a home comfortable is a benefit of modern living. The National Park Service says simply adjusting the thermostat by 3 F down in the winter and up in the summer can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly

1,000 to 1,050 pounds per year.

- **Unplug appliances.**

Unplug “vampire” appliances when they are not in use. Such appliances are those that draw power even when they’re not being used. Televisions, chargers and others are known culprits. A power strip can be used

to cut off power completely when not in use.

- **Buy secondhand items.**

Whenever possible, shop secondhand for clothes and furniture. Used items reduce demand for new manufacturing, which tends to be energy-intensive.

- **Rely on public transportation.** Riding buses and trains is a more energy-efficient way to get around than driving solo. Whenever possible, carpool or hop on public transportation to reduce fuel consumption.

- **Shop local and seasonal items.** Patronizing local shops and locally sourced goods helps reduce how many miles items need to be transported. The further products must travel to get into your hands, the greater the transportation emissions produced.

Although protecting the environment seems like a monumental task, small steps anyone can embrace can have a big impact.


Recycle Cart Do's and Don'ts

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The effects of trash on the environment

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Earth Day is an annual holiday celebrated on April 22. Earth Day celebrates the planet and the dawn of the modern environmental movement that began in 1970.

Efforts to draw attention to environmental issues affecting the planet have always been important. But the significance of such efforts grows each year, as climate experts and environmental researchers continue to warn that something must be done to change behaviors that could be adversely affecting the planet.

One area that might require change concerns trash. According to EarthDay.org, two billion metric tons of unsustainable, municipally generated trash are thrown away across the globe every year. That trash subsequently enters the environment and affects the climate and the health of animals and humans. And some research suggests that the effects of trash on the environment might be underestimated.

A 2024 study from researchers at Harvard University's John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences noted that estimates from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicating methane emissions from landfills have been greatly underestimated. Researchers behind the Harvard study found that methane emissions from landfills are 51 percent higher than EPA estimates suggest. That's a notable miscalculation, as methane emissions are a significant contributor to climate change. In fact, EarthDay.org notes that methane has a warming potential

more than 80 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. The warming potential of methane underscores the need to incorporate waste management practices that may help reduce methane emissions into any strategies designed to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Trash also can have a harmful effect on wildlife. Trash can get into natural settings, including waterways, where it has an adverse effect on marine species. EarthDay.org notes that plastic or solid waste gradually degrades into smaller pieces, making it difficult for wildlife, including marine species, to distinguish between what is food they can eat and what is plastic that they should avoid. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, as much as 23 million tons of plastic enters aquatic environments each year.

Trash also can have an adverse effect on human health. Thousands of chemicals are utilized to manufacture products that ultimately end up in landfills each year, and EarthDay.org notes that landfills provide a pathway for those chemicals to enter the environment. Some of those chemicals are endocrine-disrupting and/or carcinogenic, and exposure to them may increase a person's risk for health issues including infertility, cancer and Alzheimer's disease, among others.

Trash is a part of daily life. Recognition of the harmful environmental impact trash can have is vital as the world looks to alter behaviors that could be jeopardizing the health of the planet and the species on it.

Using Greywater

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Greywater is untreated wastewater from household sources such as sinks, showers and washing machines, but not toilet waste, which is referred to as blackwater.

In most of our homes, greywater goes out to municipal waste systems along with blackwater and we don't think about it again. But there are more efficient ways to use it.

What is a Greywater System?

Greywater systems collect water from the sources in your home and filters it to remove pollutants such as line, hair and chemicals. The filtered water can then be reused, commonly in irrigation systems, even during water restrictions. Greywater shouldn't come into contact with edible parts of plants, such as vegetables or fruits, and people using greywater irrigation should take care to use as many plant-friendly products as possible. For some households, it's



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even possible to reuse greywater inside the house to flush toilets and in other nonpotable situations.

Greywater Guidelines

Greywater isn't fresh water and shouldn't be treated like it. Greywater Action offers these basic guidelines for using greywater.

- Don't store greywater more than 24 hours. Any longer than that and nutrients in it will start to

break down and cause bad odors.

- Minimize your contact with greywater because it could potentially contain a pathogen. A greywater system should be designed for water to soak into

the ground and not be available for people or animals to drink.

- Don't allow greywater to pool or run off. Pooling greywater can give mosquitoes a place to breed and increase the chances for

humans to come into contact with it.

- Keep greywater systems as simple as possible. Avoid using too many pumps and filters that need upkeep. Simple systems last longer, require less maintenance and less energy.

- Install a three-way valve for easy switching between a greywater system and the sewer or septic system.

- Match the amount of greywater your plants receive with their watering needs. Greywater Action suggests constructed wetlands to help ecologically dispose of excess greywater in areas that are home to naturally occurring wetlands.

Wetlands may not work as well in arid climates where they would use too much water and not leave enough available for irrigation.

Did You Know?

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

In 2025, American climatologist James Hansen and a team of research colleagues declared the goal to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius was no longer viable. That goal, part of a pledge negotiated by 196 parties at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference near Paris, France, aimed to combat climate change by keeping global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. But a team of researchers that included Hansen, a professor at Columbia University, insisted that rising global energy use has made the goal impossible to



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achieve. Authors behind the study, which was published in the journal Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development, also predicted that accelerated global heating will increase ice melting in the Arctic, a development that could make sea level rise of several meters inevitable.

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Investing Sustainably

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Sustainable investing can make you feel good about earning more green.

It's the practice of making capital allocation decisions based on socially responsible and ethical strategies to ensure the companies you invest in maintain a high standard of sustainability principles. Morgan Stanley says most companies see sustainability as a way to help the Earth and to make money. It says 88% of companies view sustainability as a way to create long-term value.

ESG Principles

ESG stands for environmental, social and governance. It refers to a framework of understanding and measuring how sustainably an organization is operating.

It takes the holistic view that sustainability goes beyond environmental issues, including fair wages, shareholder rights and more. The term comes from a 2004 UN report and evolved into a more proactive movement into the 2020s. It now



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includes key elements related to environmental and social impact and stakeholder well-being.

There are a variety of platforms that issue ESG scores evaluating an organization's performance on sustainability metrics.

These scoring systems

are either industry-specific or industry-agnostic, the Corporate Finance Institute says. The industry-agnostic scores tend to incorporate factors such as climate change; diversity, equity and inclusion; and human rights.

Some scoring systems include the Global Reporting

Initiative, Principles for Responsible Investment and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board.

Types of Sustainable Investors

The Corporate Finance Institute says there are

different types of sustainable investors in the marketplace, including development banks, pension plans that support environmentally conscious corporations, religious institutions, nonprofit foundations, and socially conscious individuals. These investors wish to advance environmental, social or governance principles.

Some funds and brokerages are putting together sustainable investing plans to cater to these customers. These ETFs and securities may not be driven just by profit but also by a desire to contribute towards moving the world to a more sustainable and ethical future. Even though profit isn't the main focus, Morgan Stanley says sustainable funds are showing promise in the marketplace.

In the first six months of 2025, the bank says sustainable funds posted a median return of 12.5% while traditional funds saw just 9.2%. Assets under management grew to a new high of \$3.92 trillion as of June 30, up 11% from December 2024.

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Sustainability in the Afterlife

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

The death of a loved one is fraught with big emotions and big decisions. If you or a loved one is committed to sustainability, that commitment can extend to death as well.

Green funerals conduct post-death care through natural means from start to finish. This can involve practices such as home funerals, green burial preparation and green burials, the Green Burial Council says.

Green Funeral Practices

Many people aiming for sustainable afterlife outline wishes for a home funeral or home vigil, where their body will be cared for using natural, noninvasive procedures. Families, friends and spiritual care teams bathe and dress the body at home. In blended funerals, the family holds a home vigil but hires a funeral director for filing paperwork and other aspects of the funeral that the family may prefer to hand over to a professional. In some areas, professional green burial body preparation may be available to prepare and hold a body for burial without embalming.



STUDIO PORTO SABBIA

What is a Green Burial?

A green burial allows full body interment in the ground in a way that does not inhibit decomposition. It typically does not have a vault, includes a nontoxic preparation of the body and uses containers made of

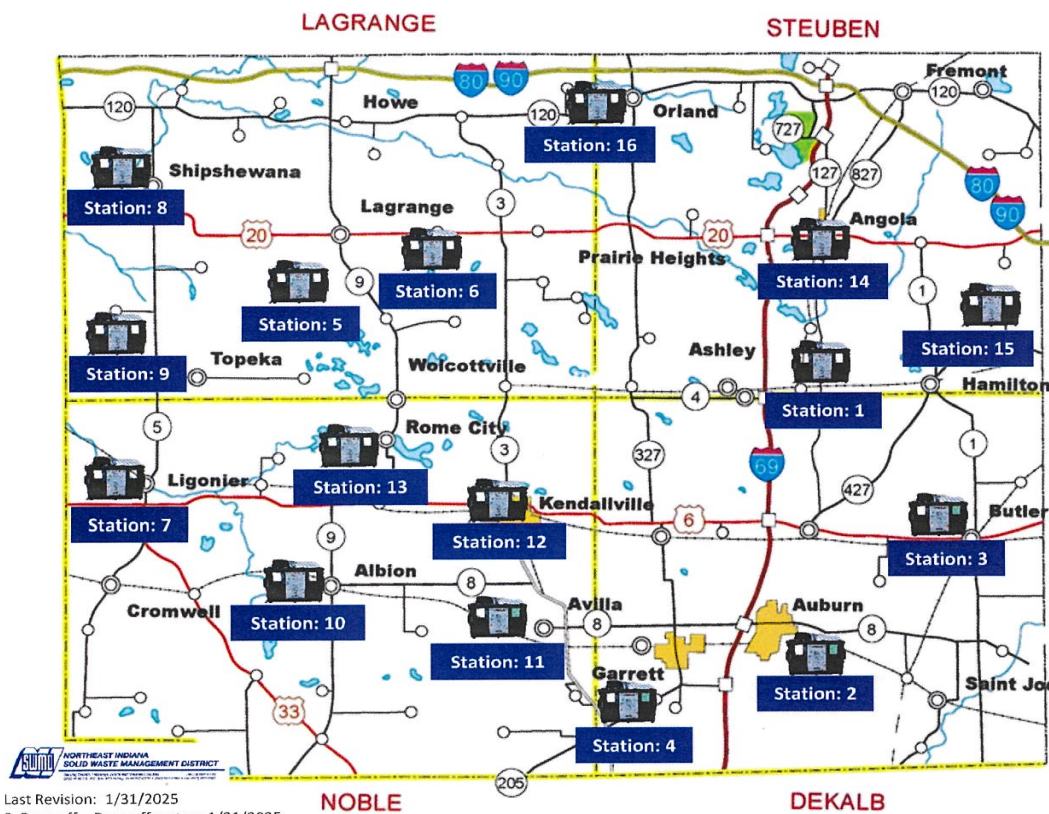
organic materials. The Green Burial Council says dead bodies, when prepared and stored correctly, pose no threat of infection or other health risks. Furthermore, green burial sites take contamination very seriously and often undergo testing at both local

and state levels. Burial sites are often located a certain distance from known drinking water sources and other infrastructure.

Some people may not know what to expect at a green burial. The council says while each site has its own practices, typically families and friends are greeted at the cemetery by a funeral director. People attending the burial should wear sturdy, outdoor footwear and dress for the weather. The body will be in a biodegradable container, such as a pine coffin, a wicker or grass basket, a papier mache pod or any other container that will decompose quickly in the ground. Shrouds are another good choice, but families should know that, with a shroud, the body form will be visible.

Green burial graves are dug about 3 to 4 feet deep. Wide boards are often placed on the edges to stop collapse and those boards are then covered in greens. The gravesite may be covered with natural greenery, including on the grave floor and covering the excavated dirt to soften the experience. The casket or shroud will be lowered either by a motorized device or by hand using ropes.

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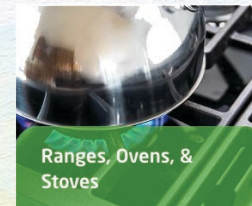
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