

# Green Family Summer Newsletter

 **Bendigo  
Bank**

generation  
green

Summer 2010



Hi, I'm Liv, the smallest (but I reckon the smartest) kid in the Green family. Summer is almost here and it's definitely my favourite time of the year, mostly because it's holiday time, but also because it's a great chance to put some more green living tips into action. Here's what our family are planning this summer to keep doing our bit for the environment.

## Stage 1. Ride a bike

Dad reckons it's really important to reduce our car use to cut down on our carbon emissions. I agree with him and suggested we sell both our cars and ride our bikes everywhere. Dad said we probably wouldn't go quite that far, but we should definitely ride our bikes more.

So with the better weather now here, I've been riding to school with my little brother Max every day. We've also been riding our bikes to Little Athletics every Saturday morning – that was actually Max's idea, which I have to admit was a pretty good one. As far as little brothers go, he's not that bad I suppose.

And Mum has started to ride to work too, which means we're all doing our bit to look after the environment, as well as saving heaps of money on petrol. All we have to do now is to get Dad riding to work - he hasn't been that keen so far though, which might have something to do with him working in Melbourne and living in Bendigo.



## Stage 2. Mulch your patch

I love growing stuff in our garden so Mum suggested we start mulching before the hotter weather really hits. I've learnt tonnes of facts about mulching lately, but one of the coolest things is that mulching can reduce water loss in a garden by up to 25% – that's a lot of water! As well as that, it also makes the soil much healthier, provides a stable temperature for the soil and helps prevent weeds.

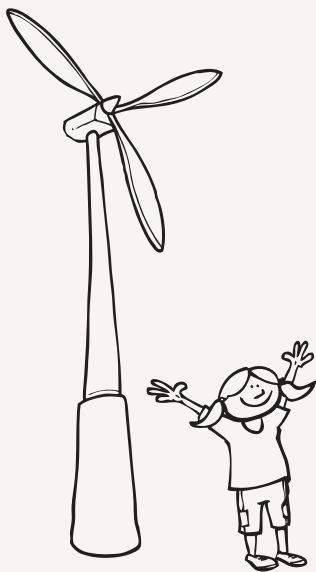
We're going to use tree prunings from our own backyard for the flower bed mulch so we won't be using any energy to get it here – and the other bonus is it's free! The best mulch for a veggie patch is pea straw and hay, so pretty soon my tomatoes and carrots are going to be the most water efficient veggies anywhere!



## Stage 3. Generate your own electricity

Max's idea of using pedal power to get to Little Aths got me thinking about how we could replace the normal sources of power for our home. Dad has already had some solar panels installed but last week at school we learnt about windmills and how effective they are for making electricity.

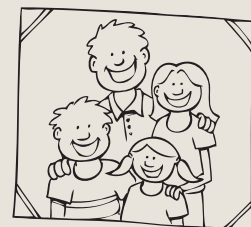
Windmills are a fantastic way to generate electricity because they create no greenhouse gases and they operate day and night, whenever it's windy. Max is full of hot air so they'll work well at our place. Also, windmills can operate effectively with solar panels, so they'll fit in perfectly at home. And to help pay for the wind turbines, I told Mum and Dad about the 1% discount they can get on a Generation Green™ personal loan from Bendigo Bank.



If you'd like to find out more about funding environmentally friendly products, check out a **Bendigo Bank Generation Green Personal Loan**.

For more information on how you can go green, take a look at our **3 stage program**.

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