

WELCOME TO THE GREEN ISSUE

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I'm Cameron Diaz.

You know me as Princess Fiona from the Shrek flicks. But did you know I'm also an **environmentalist**? We can't keep the Earth healthy without your help, so I wanted to speak out in the Green Issue of NATIONAL Geographic Kids, which is about protecting the planet. I sat down with NGK to talk about eco-friendly tips, the power of kids, and recycling stinky sneakers.

National Geographic Kids: Why do you care so much about protecting the Earth?

CAMERON DIAZ: Think about the planet as your house. If you don't take care of it, it falls apart, and you can't live in it. Earth is the same way. We don't have another planet, and we can't live without clean air and water. We have to take care of them right now.

NGK: What are you doing to help the environment?

CD: I love driving my hybrid car. The gas mileage is fantastic, and the low emissions mean less carbon dioxide, a gas that may contribute to global warming.

NGK: What else are you doing?

CD: I'm careful how long I let the water run. I try not to turn on my lights until it gets dark and use compact fluorescent lightbulbs. I can go a year on just one roll of plastic wrap.

NGK: Really?

CD: Yep. I wash the plastic wrap after I use it, but I also do things like put a plate over the bowl instead of plastic wrap. I just try to figure out how to do things differently so it's better for the environment.

NGK: You're just one person, though. Why is it important for everyone to pitch in?

CD: I like to snowboard, but I have friends who don't, so we don't connect on that. But there's one thing that we can all connect on: We all need the Earth's resources. There's not one person who can say, "I don't need clean water or air." So everybody has to do their part.

NGK: Even kids?

CD: Especially kids! Think about it: All the great inventors were kids once. So how are today's kids going to make the world a better place? They're the ones who will figure out how to make a car more efficient, or how to purify water.

NGK: But a lot of our readers may think, "I'm just a kid and can't make a difference."

CD: They're so wrong. Businesses bend over backward to find out what kids want. If kids demand green products, then we will have green products. That's a huge power.

NGK: Are there other things that kids can do?

CD: Think about how you can reuse things. Like, when I buy something, I save all the packaging—the little boxes, the plastic wrapping, the twist ties. To me it's like a puzzle figuring out how to reuse them.

NGK: Any other advice?

CD: Be selfish—it's OK to want the best. You already want the best pair of sneakers, the best video game, the best bike. Why not want the best oxygen, the best water, the best soil? You deserve it!

NGK: We have another idea how kids can help. We're asking them to send in their used sneakers, which will be recycled into athletic surfaces.

CD: That's a great idea! Instead of letting your shoes sit in a dump, you're making them into something that kids all over the country can enjoy. You get to take all the fun and energy that those shoes gave you and put them back into the world. Can I ask a question?

NGK: Sure!

CD: Can I be the first to donate my sneakers?

MORE GREEN TIPS!

We asked Cameron's Shrek the Third costars what they're doing to help protect the planet. Here's what they said.

Mike Myers (Shrek): I walk everywhere. I have a car that gets great gas mileage, but I never drive it. A lot of the world can be saved if we can just get off oil.

Antonio Banderas (Puss in Boots): Maybe it's not such a good idea to take longer showers. Maybe you should try shorter showers. It's still good for you, but you save a little bit of energy.

Julie Andrews (Queen Lillian): Do anything you can, whether it's using recycled paper or planting trees. Celebrate this planet, because it's the only one we have.

Rupert Everett (Prince Charming): People should have only one car and a bicycle. I ride my bicycle all the time.

Cheri Oteri (Sleeping Beauty): Turn off the lights!

SIDEBAR

Go online to watch an interview with Cameron Diaz about the importance of protecting the planet.

kids.nationalgeographic.com

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