

FREEBIES YOU CAN GET FOR GOING GREEN

You can do good for the Earth AND get a little something for yourself, thanks to several "green" promotions being offered now.

Plenty of people believe going green is cost prohibitive, but on The Early! Show on Thursday, April 23, 2009, Danny Seo, Better Homes and Gardens (www.bhg.com) Green Living Contributor highlighted some companies that send you free or discounted stuff if you recycle, plant a tree, or participate in other environmentally friendly activities.

HALF-PRICE ZOYA NAIL POLISH

Most women have old bottles of nail polish in their medicine cabinets. Unfortunately, those polishes are full of chemicals that shouldn't just be thrown in the trash. Zoya is an up and coming green company according to Danny. Its polishes are formaldehyde, toluene, camphor and dibutyl phthalate-free, and most importantly come in a huge range of colors.

If you send the company six or more bottles of your old polish, they will send you back an equal number of new Zoya polishes, in colors of your choice. You pay \$3 shipping and handling per bottle (which essentially means you are receiving the Zoya polishes at a 50% discount ... They cost \$6 apiece).

In addition to getting new, environmentally-friendly products, you can feel good knowing that Zoya will recycle your old polishes.

www.zoya.com/earthday

RADIO SHACK GIFT CARDS

Recycle your old electronic items at Radio Shack, and receive a gift card based on the items' value. You can take cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, camcorders, GPS devices, gaming consoles and laptop computers to your local store, or send them in the mail (Radio Shack pays for shipping). Of course the better shape your items are in, the more they'll be worth.

You may be surprised how quickly your unused stuff can turn into a pile of cash! Below are real items that were submitted to Radio Shack and their appraised values:

Ipod nano - \$13.08

Sony PSP - \$36.73

GPS - \$30.24

Sony Cybershot camera - \$91.79

CHEAP HAIRCUT

Head to one of the over 100 Paul Mitchell Hair Schools around the country and get your hair cut for \$10 - \$15. Here's the best part - your hair clippings will be collected and donated to *Matter of Trust* - an organization that creates absorbent hair mats to soak up oil at spills across the country.

Yes, hair mats. You wash your hair because it absorbs grease, so it makes sense that your hair could be an effective, natural way to clean up oil spills without using chemicals. The mats were first used in the 2007 San Francisco oil spill.

www.paulmitchelltheschool.com

FREE JEWELRY

Take a picture or video of yourself planting a tree and send it to Figs and Ginger - a husband and wife team that creates eco-friendly sterling jewelry. They'll send you a sterling silver tree necklace or fawn earrings/tie tacks. Much of their work is inspired by the simple beauty found in forests, both imaginary & real. You can find their pieces in select galleries & shops across the country and abroad.

(email to EarthDay@FigsdandGinger.com)

FREE LIPSTICK

By returning six MAC primary packaging containers to a MAC makeup counter or to MAC Cosmetics online, you'll receive a free MAC lipstick of your choice as their way of saying thanks. All old MAC packaging is recycled and made into new products (like mirrors and other packaging) and kept out of the landfill waste system.

Jurlique is a natural beauty company that's offering a similar deal. Mail in 3 empty Jurlique containers and receive a free sample of one of their products.

GET CASH

Citizen's Bank is urging its customers to sign up for paperless banking in a new campaign dubbed "Green\$ense." The average customer will wind up saving SEVEN POUNDS of paper if they go paperless. You will also wind up saving money - the bank will give you a dime for every electronic transaction made up to \$10 a month and \$120 a year. Customers will receive all banking statements electronically, receive a debit card made from recycled plastic, and get free online automatic bill paying without paper checks. Citizen's Bank has branches primarily on the East Coast, but offices in 40 states.

www.citizensbank.com