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Green earth meaning

Green funding has taken center state in the 21st century. It represents the financial backing of a business considered environmentally sound and socially conscious. Green funding can be in the form of equity, loans and grants from banks, government agencies, private investors or business entities. Building a business with green funds means focusing on more than just the bottom line. It means making a statement with your business about the importance of safeguarding the Earth and being socially conscious toward all of its inhabitants. Green funding is sought by individuals, companies and organizations who are producing goods and services that are friendly to the environment, often by having a smaller environmental impact or footprint than alternative products or companies. Examples include renewable energy companies, purchasers of renewable energy generation, organic farms, makers of products that contain few or no synthetic chemicals and clean technology developers. Private investors and philanthropists fund green projects and companies for a variety of reasons and under a variety of terms. Examples of private funders include bank lenders, venture capital funds, foundations and individuals. Private investors may be seeking a strictly financial return and think green investments are attractive on that basis alone. Some investors seek to invest in a company that has a positive environmental impact along with a sound financial return, while still others want to invest in companies that maintain a low environmental footprint. City, state and national governments also offer green funding. Funding can take the form of tax credits, subsidized loans, grants, or contracts. The government typically wants job creation and innovation that makes the country, state or city competitive, as well as environmentally clean. Cash incentives for green companies often expire within a few years of being made available. The political climate contributes to the amount of green funding that is made available through public channels. A socioeconomic and political battle continues to wage across the globe about definitions, global warming or even the need for being green. The lack of universally agreed upon issues and definitions cause confusion for businesses and individuals. This confusion can lead to a company claiming that it's green, while outsiders disagree and possibly accuse the company of green-washing. Given the complexity of the world's ecosystems, it is very possible for a product or company to be green in one respect, but not in another. Many hydroelectric dams generate electricity without greenhouse gas emissions, for example, so they are considered green in that regard. But they impact the wildlife in the region and prevent salmon from making it upriver to spawn, which goes against being environmentally sound. In the end, those involved in green funding determine for themselves what they consider green. As "being green" becomes more carefully defined, and as metrics for measuring greenness improve, those involved in green funding, including customers of green companies, will continue to finance green projects and businesses. It remains to be seen whether further climate legislation is enacted around the world, which would funnel even more funds to those who can be competitive in a way that treads lightly on the environment. We include products we think are useful for our readers. If you buy through links on this page, we may earn a small commission. Here's our process.

Feeling overwhelmed from doomscrolling? Take a deep breath. The world or the climate won't get fixed in a day.What you can do is set a few realistic goals to improve the world around you one day at a time — like shopping vintage or snacking on locally grown foods. Another simple way to reduce your global footprint is to swap conventional cleaning products for greener alternatives. Here are the deets.

Share on PinterestEver gotten an instant headache from scrubbing the shower? It's not just in your head. The chemicals in many cleaning products can mess with your skin, aggravate allergies, affect your breathing, and irritate sensitive areas like your eyes, nose, or mouth.

According to Clean Water Action, even antibacterial soaps and sponges can be bad for your health since they kill good bacteria too. Going green with your cleaning just means choosing products made from ingredients that are safe for you and your fellow humans — even kids or folks with compromised immune systems.Of course, it's also good for the planet. Avoid chemicals that pollute the water or air around you. And remember to look for recyclable (or already recycled!) packaging.

There are countless "natural" cleaning products on the market, so how do you know which ones are legit?Keeping this list in mind, we scoured the internet for products recommended by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit that reports on and grades green cleaning products.Cool, so what do they cost?The items on our list will set you back anywhere from 99 cents (hello there, baking soda!) to \$27 (we see you, Poofy).\$ = under \$10\$\$ = \$10-20\$\$\$\$ = over \$20Let's start with the all-stars. Use these products to get squeaky-clean digs without the chemical hangover.

Poofy Home All-Purpose Cleaner Refill, Medieval BlendThe deets: This 4-ounce bottle rings up at \$27.50, but that's because it's a concentrate that yields twelve 16-ounce bottles of all-purpose cleaner. Talk about bulk packaging. It's also packed with natural fragrances like lemon, rosemary, and fir to make your home smell fresh and clean.Price: \$\$\$Buy Poofy All-Purpose Cleaner Refill (Medieval Blend) here.

Earth Friendly Products ECOS Cream Cleanser, LemonThe deets: This cleanser uses finely ground limestone to scrub grime and scaly buildup from hard surfaces. The creamy texture comes from xanthan gum, a food-grade thickener. Online reviews highlight its ability to remove grease as effectively as chemical cleaners. Price: \$\$Buy Earth Friendly Products ECOS Cream Cleanser, Lemon here.

Aunt Fannie's Floor Cleaner Vinegar Wash Concentrate, Eucalyptus The deets: Could you mix up a vinegar-and-oils all-purpose floor cleaner at home? Sure, but it would take time to get the perfect ratio of grease-cutting vinegar and antiseptic, aromatic oils.

Because this is a concentrate, a little bit of packaging (and product) goes a long way.Price: \$Buy Aunt Fannie's Floor Cleaner Vinegar Wash Concentrate, Eucalyptus here.

Bathroom messes can be, shall we say, special. It takes a tough product to clean stained grout, toilet rings, and scummy tubs.

Seventh Generation Tub & Tile Natural Cleaner, Emerald Cypress & Fir The deets: The plant-based ingredients in this shower cleaner help dissolve soap scum, though some reviewers mention that the smell from these essential oils can be overpowering.Price: \$\$Buy Seventh Generation Tub & Tile Natural Cleaner (Emerald Cypress & Fir) here.

Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Tub and Tile, Lemon VerbenaThe deets: This product's packaging is made with at least 30 percent post-consumer plastic and is recyclable once you're done with it.Price: \$Buy Mrs. Meyers Clean Day Tub and Tile (Lemon Verbena) here.

Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Tub and Tile, LavenderThe deets: The lavender scent could make your bathroom feel like a calming spa. And just as the Mrs. Meyers Clean Day Tub and Tile (Lemon Verbena) does, this Mrs. Meyer's product helps keep tiles sparkling without relying on chlorine or other harsh chemicals.Price: \$Buy Mrs. Meyers Clean Day Tub and Tile (Lavender) here.

Put your money where your mouth is — literally. Scrub your plates and silverware with dish soap that won't harm your health.

Attitude Dishwasher Eco-PouchesThe deets: Animal lovers, you'll appreciate that these little cleaning pouches are vegan and PETA-certified. The pods, which come in cardboard packaging, completely dissolve in the dishwasher.Price: \$\$Buy Attitude Dishwasher Eco-Pouches here.

AspenClean Dish Soap, Eucalyptus & RosemaryThe deets: These dish soap bottles are made from 100 percent recycled plastic. The soap inside is equally impressive — biodegradable, septic-safe, hypoallergenic, and free of artificial fragrances. It's a great choice for folks with sensitive skin.Price: \$Buy AspenClean Dish Soap (Eucalyptus and Rosemary) here.

biokleen Natural Dish Liquid, Lemon ThymeThe deets: Though this dish soap will not work in your mechanical dishwasher, it's perfectly gentle and nontoxic for human dishwashers. The lemon and thyme scent is fresh and completely natural.Price: \$\$Buy biokleen Natural Dish Liquid (Lemon Thyme) here.

The deets: It doesn't get much more simple and natural than baking soda. One ingredient, one basic paperboard package. Price: \$ (under a dollar!)Buy Arm & Hammer Fridge-n-Freezer Baking Soda here.

Aura Cacia Aromatherapy Mist, Lavender The deets: While baking soda absorbs the stink of last week's takeout, this aromatherapy mist masks the odor with the soothing smell of lavender.Small enough to slip into your purse or handbag, this air freshener comes in handy in the bathroom, the bedroom, and maaaaybe even your cubicle (just check with your desk neighbor about potential allergies first).Price: \$Buy Aura Cacia Aromatherapy Mist (Lavender) here.

Earth Friendly Products Eco Breeze Fabric Refresher, Lavender MintThe deets: Don't let the clunky package design dissuade you — this green cleaning freshener has a light, airy scent. Reviewers note that the spray freshens up rooms without lingering for too long.Price: \$Buy Earth Friendly Products Eco Breeze Fabric Refresher (Lavender Mint) here.

You can whip up several homemade cleaning products in your kitchen or bathroom. With DIY concoctions, you can breathe easy knowing exactly what you're spraying on your countertops. These natural cleaning agents won't leach any nasty chemicals into the environment or your home:

castile soaptea tree oilbaking sodavinegarlemon juiceThe Green Building Alliance and the Environmental Working Group both offer a handful of green cleaning recipes on their websites. Here are a few you could whip up today:

All-purpose sprayFill a spray bottle halfway with water, and then fill it to the top with vinegar and give it a shake. Use it to clean everyday hard surfaces. All-purpose scrubMix up water and baking soda to make a thick paste, and voila! You've got a gritty yet gentle scrub to clean up sinks, stoves, tubs, and other hard surfaces. Add sea salt if you need more grit or lemon juice if you need to cut through soap scum. Rinse the area with water afterward to avoid residue.

DisinfectantShake or stir together 2 cups of water, 1 tablespoon of liquid castile soap, and 1 teaspoon of tea tree oil. The soap and oil will smell great and kill off germs. Glass cleanerPour 2 cups of water, 1/4 cup of white vinegar, and 1 tablespoon of cornstarch into a spray bottle. Shake well. Use it to clean glass surfaces such as windows, mirrors, and electric stovetops. Air freshenerMake your home smell like fresh-baked cookies by boiling water with vanilla and cinnamon. Or get festive by boiling water with lemon or orange slices and spices. Rose petals, fruit, herbs and spices — the sky's the limit with this method.

DeodorizerBanish serious stank in small spaces (like your fridge or closet) by leaving baking soda in an open bowl. If your carpet stinks, sprinkle it with baking soda, let it sit for a few minutes, and then vacuum up the powder (and the odor!). Drain cleanerIf your drain is clogged with soap scum, grease, or other dissolvable gunk, skip the toxic chemicals. Just pour 1/2 cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by a cup of vinegar. Wait at least 15 minutes before chasing it all down with boiling water.

Laundry detergentYep, you can totally mix up a detergent that's better for the planet, your clothes, and your wallet. Stir together 1 cup of soap flakes, 1/2 cup of baking soda, and 1/2 cup of washing soda. If you have a super grimy load, add a spoonful or two of oxygen bleach.

Yes, harsh chemicals can unclog your drain in minutes. And sure, your toilet cleaner burns off the stank — plus your nose hairs. But when you use conventional cleaning products for years, you risk harming your health and the environment. Here's what the Environmental Protection Agency has to say:Regular cleaning products can contain ingredients known to irritate eyes and skin.Chemical cleaners contain volatile organic compounds, which diminish air quality.Dumping unused chemicals can pollute waterways.

Folks who use conventional cleaning products on the reg risk prolonged exposure to toxic, dangerous ingredients. Some of the side effects you could get from non-green cleaning chemicals: sore or irritated throatred, swollen, teary, or otherwise irritated eyesheadachesasthmaThe EWG gets real serious, listing these potential risks of exposure to everyday cleaning chemicals:chemical burnspoisoningexposure to carcinogens (known cancer-causers) like 1,4-dioxane or formaldehydeadsthma caused by certain chemical fumesfetal development issues due to exposure to cleaning chemicals during pregnancyOn top of those known risks, you could be exposed to an ingredient not listed on the label. Not every cleaning product label lists all the active and inactive ingredients. Wanna show love to yourself and the environment? Go green! Green cleaning products tend to use gentler, nontoxic ingredients that are safer for humans, animals, and the world.

Finally, remember that a "green" label doesn't mean you should throw caution to the wind. Store your cleaning products somewhere that's safe from children and pets and where they won't contaminate your food. This site is not available in your country

For nearly four years, NASA's Kepler spacecraft whisked through space, surveying our corner of the galaxy. It monitored more than 150,000 stars, looking for planets about the size of Earth that belonged to other solar systems. The mission didn't disappoint: Kepler found countless examples of a type of planet known as a super-Earth. These faraway planets might remind you of home — they're rocky, smaller than gas giants, located near their star and sport a relatively thin atmosphere. But they're way larger than the blue marble: These super-Earths are a honking two to 10 times bigger in mass than our Earth. Because there are so many super-Earths out there, it begs the question: What would happen to our planet if it were two or even 10 times the size it is now? Related: What if the Earth was flat?It's possible that Earth and the other inner planets of our solar system were headed in that direction, Mickey Rosenthal, a doctoral candidate studying planet formation at the University of California, Santa Cruz, told Live Science. One theory is that the gargantuan planet Jupiter became so large that it cut off access to cosmic building blocks needed to make the inner planets bigger — effectively starving them, Rosenthal said. No matter the reason for Earth's current size, there's no way to truly know what would happen to Earth if it were super. But scientists have some ideas based on what they've learned about our faraway cousins.

For starters, you'd be shorter — you, Mount Everest and every tree in California's Sequoia National Park — because if you increase the size of a planet and keep everything else identical, gravity increases, too. If Earth were twice its size, you'd be heavier, because the force of gravity increases as the planet's density and radius increase. It would take more energy to resist gravitational pull, so the structures we have today wouldn't be strong enough to stand as tall as they do now. With a larger planet and stronger gravitational field, Earth would also experience more collisions. Rory Barnes, a theorist who studies planet habitability at the University of Washington, told Live Science. As a superplanet, Earth's greater gravitational pull would effectively attract more and larger asteroids, so "Armageddon-type" collisions would become more of a concern than they are now, Barnes said. If the hypothetical super-Earth were even bigger, say, 10 times its current mass, dramatic changes could start happening in Earth's interior. The iron core and liquid mantle would also be 10 times larger, and with more gravity acting on a larger mass, the pressure beneath Earth's surface would increase. This high pressure could cause the iron core to solidify, Barnes said. As of now, convection currents in our partially liquid core generate Earth's magnetic field. But if the core solidified, the currents would stop and the magnetic field could be weakened or eliminated, Barnes said. If our magnetic field faded or disappeared, it would be very bad for life on Earth, Barnes said. Our magnetic field "shields life on the planet from the nastiness of space," Barnes noted. Without it, charged particles flying through space, also called solar storms, could slam into Earth. And these tiny particles can cause all kinds of problems, including breaking up DNA and increasing the risk of cancer, he said.

Barnes also pointed out that a larger interior could make super-Earth more volcanically active than it is now. As the radius of the planet increases, there's more energy inside and fewer places for that energy to escape. More volcanic eruptions wouldn't be surprising, he said. Plate tectonics, too, would be different on a super-Earth. But the exact effect is still an open question. A larger mantle would also be hotter, possibly causing more vigorous convection currents that would push plates around more. In contrast, it's possible that under the high pressure, the crust would be totally fused together and plate tectonics wouldn't exist at all.

Based on the super-Earths that scientists have found so far, we can't really be certain Earth would even be habitable if it were a super-Earth. The Kepler space telescope was best at detecting planets close to their star — much closer than Earth is to the sun. Most super-Earths known to science are almost as close to their star as Mercury is to our sun. For Earth to be comparable to stand as tall as they do now, said Hilke Schlichting, an associate professor of astrophysics at the University of California, Los Angeles. That orbit might be habitable in systems with a star smaller than the sun, but if our Earth were that close to our sun, all of the water on the planet would vaporize, Schlichting said. In other words, Earth would be out of the habitable zone and, in essence, would become a steam planet, she said.

Surprisingly, many of the super-Earths discovered so far seem to be water rich, like entire water worlds, Rodrigo Luger, the Flatiron Research Fellow at the Simon Foundation's Center for Computational Astrophysics in New York City, said in an interview. It's possible that these planets formed from large pieces of ice and then later migrated close to their stars, which prompted their ice to melt, he said. However, these planets might not be habitable, since their deep oceans plummet to a solid ice layer. This ice is not formed by low temperatures, but by the intense pressure of the super-deep ocean, which forces water molecules into a solid state. This ice layer blocks any interaction between the atmosphere and the planet's interior, meaning there is no carbon cycle (a process in which carbon cycled through the atmosphere, ocean, and crust) or no mineral exchange (which regulates Earth's long term temperature via an interaction between atmosphere and the mantle), according to Luger. That doesn't promote habitability — at least for life as we know it. The reality is that scientists have more questions about super-Earths than they have answers. And we don't fully understand the physics of our own interior, much less that of a planet many solar systems away, Luger said. We don't know what would happen if Earth were supersized or closer to the sun. But, so far, it seems very fortunate that we aren't living on a planet that's any of those things.

Editor's note: This story was updated to note that if Earth were twice its mass, gravity would increase, but not by twice as much. Also, to clarify that super-Earths are planets that are between two and 10 times the mass of our planet.

Originally published on Live Science.

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