



Homeless people forced out of vacant* home after fire

Farron Salley • 04/17/2014

TULSA, Okla. - A house fire in east Tulsa forced firefighters and police to kick out nearly a dozen homeless people.

Crews responded to a fire at a vacant home near 21st and Garnett streets. FOX23's Farron Salley found out what further action they plan to take and why neighbors are so concerned.

Every window around the home is broken. Neighbors said they're worried the people that damaged this home could do the same to their property too.

"I think they should keep them out or find them a place to go," said Johnnie Norman, a concerned neighbor.

When firefighters were called out around 9 a.m. Thursday morning for a fire all they found was smoke coming out of the fireplace.

"But what we found was this is a vacant structure in which several homeless people were staying in," said Capt. Ricky Powell with the Tulsa Fire Department.

They called police for backup while forcing nearly a dozen homeless people to leave. Neighbors knew there were some strangers hanging around but were shocked 10 people were living there.

Fire crews said the home is a safety hazard* and although neighbors told FOX23 they hate to see the people stranded outside, "because we have a lot of youth, children and older people in this area," said Norman.

They agree with police that they can't stay there.

* vacant : empty, unoccupied

* hazard : danger, risk



MoneyTalksNEWS

How Long Does It Take to Untangle Your Credit After a Divorce?

Gerri Detweiler • April 3, 2014

The day you find out your divorce is final may either feel like one of the worst days of your life or a cause for celebration, depending on whether you wanted to stay or go. Either way, it may not be truly over.

In a recent survey of divorced individuals by Credit.com, 40 percent of respondents said it took them more than six months to separate finances, and for 11 percent of them, it took more than three years.

If you are thinking of splitting up, or have already done so, and you want to move on as quickly as possible (creditwise*, at least), here are some steps that can make the process a little easier and faster.

Account for joint accounts

Closing out joint accounts at the first sign of trouble in your relationship can be a wise move. As long as joint accounts remain open, you are fully responsible for any and all charges made by you and your ex (or soon-to-be ex).

If you've already parted ways, you need to have a plan for handling balances left on any joint debts. Do not assume that just because the divorce decree says he or she must pay some or all of those balances that you are off the hook*. You are still bound* by the agreement you both made when you opened the account.

Monitor your credit monthly

[...]

* creditwise : concerning someone's credit

* to be off the hook : to be no longer in difficulty or trouble

* to be bound with : to have a contractual obligation



MoneyTalksNEWS

10 Fun and Inexpensive Things to Do With Your Kids This Weekend

Kimberly Winkowitsch • April 10, 2014

Are you looking for some fun and inexpensive things to do with your children this weekend? Having fun doesn't have to cost a lot of money.

Here are the top 10 tried and true ideas that I came up with:

1. Hide and seek in the dark with Glow Sticks*

I love this idea because it's simple and can be done for the price of a few Glow Sticks. Kids love games in the dark of night, so this is a sure winner.

2. Go to the river and play

I had so many of my friends mention this one that I had to include it. It's probably so popular because little children love throwing rocks into the water. This can entertain them for a long time.

3. Pizza party

Let them make their own pizzas and you have simple and fun dinner. My vote is to keep it easy for Mom or Dad by purchasing pre-made crusts or pizza kits.

Children love having ownership of their own pizzas and selecting their ingredients of choice.

5. Treasure hunt

Hide something and draw a map that the children have to follow to find the treasure. They can even take turns creating their own treasure map and hidden treasure for everyone else to find.

6. Nature walk

Take a walk and look for special birds, animals, insects or plants.

[...]

* Glow Stick : a plastic tube containing chemicals that produce phosphorescent light



DAILY NEWS
AMERICA

Girl and boy, aged 12 and 13, become Britain's youngest parents

The young couple are 'totally in love,' according to friends. The pre-teen girl's school friends didn't realize she was pregnant, despite her remaining in school until March.

BY LEE MORAN • Wednesday, April 16, 2014

A 12-year-old girl and her 13-year-old boyfriend have become Britain's youngest parents. The couple, who conceived when the then elementary schoolgirl was aged just 11, gave birth to a healthy baby daughter weighing 7-pounds-4 last weekend. Friends say the pair are "totally in love," are planning to bring up the infant together and eventually want to get married.

"Both sets of grandparents are incredibly supportive. It's a very difficult situation because the parents are both so young - but their families are right behind them," a source told The Sun. "The baby's mum and dad have been in a relationship for more than a year, so it isn't a fleeting* romance. They intend to stick together and bring their daughter up together," he added.

School friends said they had no idea the girl, who lives in a North London home with her 27-year-old mom, was pregnant.

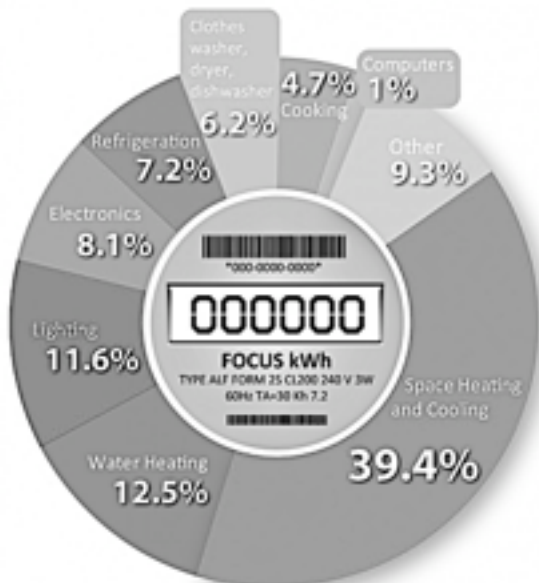
"Everyone is shocked. She was in school until March this year. She didn't look pregnant. She's only tiny anyway. She didn't have a bulge* on her," said one pal.

It's believed she wants to return to school in Sept. to continue her studies.

* fleeting : brief, short-lived

* bulge : a rounded swelling or protuberance

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

theguardian

Five energy saving home improvements

Taking steps to stop your home leaking energy needn't cost a fortune, but may well save you one

After months of winter weather, thousands of us are already getting ready for next year by blocking out the elements as best we can.

"I have spent this winter obsessively draught-proofing* my cottage on the cheap," says Siobhain Broughton, a medical professional. "It's just a matter of windows resealed, doors, skirting boards sealed up, and making sure I check behind appliances."

Such simple measures soon yield* big savings on energy, and bills, but for serious savers spending a bit extra can bring big results. More than 500,000 homes in Britain now generate their own electricity using solar panels.

Writer Rachel Newcombe and her husband opted for solar panels to generate electricity and heat their water in their new home. "It is fascinating keeping track of how much electricity we're generating each day, via a little gadget – even on dull days, there's a relatively decent amount generated," she explains.

"We're also now much more careful with how we use electrical items," she says.

"I've cut down on boiling unnecessary amounts of water in the kettle and we only use the washing machine and dishwasher when our gadget shows a tick – that there is enough electricity for it to be 'free!'"

* draught-proofing : (Brit.) to prevent a current of cool air in a room

* yield : produce



Research News

Social Work tackles challenges of America's aging population

By CHARLES ANZALONE • Published April 10, 2014

By the year 2050, the number of people age 65 or older will more than double. Within that exploding demographic, the “oldest-old” — or those people age 85 or older — will become the fastest-growing segment of that aging population, increasing by almost 70 percent over the next 20 years.

That makes these “oldest-old” the fastest-growing demographic of any in the United States. The people in this growing population face a challenge: They can take the opportunity to remain healthy, active and independent, or they can incur serious problems that could potentially be avoided or minimized if they had access to the resources and supportive services needed.

This is where the School of Social Work comes in. The school's new Institute of Innovative Aging Policy and Practice, or IIAPP, launched by Assistant Professor Louanne Bakk, aims to address those problems, , devoting its formidable research capabilities to finding solutions.

[...]

Additionally, the population will become more diverse, with racial and ethnic minority groups representing a larger proportion of the population.

“It's important to remember that despite advances within the policy arena, inequalities continue to exist — particularly in relation to race, ethnicity and gender,” says Bakk.

“Given the increase in the older adult population, it's critical social workers are knowledgeable and have an understanding of these people's needs and the issues surrounding their ability to remain independent within the community,” says Bakk.



the largest online community of people passionate about making a difference

How Fast Food Signs Can Make You Overeat

Shubhra Krishan • April 15, 2014

When “fast foods” were first introduced to the world, the idea was simple: quick and cheap foods would allow people to eat a meal on-the-go and move on to complete their work. This, it was believed, would help increase efficiency levels.

The idea proved to be appealing. Today, the consumption of fast food in America has jumped 500% in the last three decades. And with the passage of time, the brain has learned to recognize fast food signs as an indication to hurry up. According to a study done at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, just the sight of a familiar fast food sign can trigger* impatience.

During the study, participants were exposed very briefly to a leading fast food chain’s logo. Soon after, they were assigned simple tasks.

The results were telling: these participants read a book faster and chose time-saving products such as a two-in-one shampoo. Researchers connected this behavior to the subconscious message given off by the sight of the fast food sign: Hurry up!

Why is this bad for our health? When we order in a hurry, our nutrition can suffer. We might make more rash* decisions to consume high-calorie foods.

How do you feel when you see a fast food sign? Does any of this ring true for you?

* asparagus [əˈspɛrəɡəs] : asperge

* trigger : cause a situation to happen

* rash : impulsive



[Homepage](#) > [Product Reviews](#) > [Inside the Institute](#)

5 Million American Homes Are Missing This Major Item

BY LAUREN PIRO • APRIL 17, 2014

We just came across this scary stat from the National Fire Protection Association: Five million American homes don't have any smoke detectors. And what's more, "First Alert" reports that a study by the Institution of Fire Engineers found that US homes are lacking a whopping* 100 million smoke alarms in total.

You should have an alarm in every bedroom. And more.

One or two smoke alarms are far from enough in the average household. The NFPA recommends that you have a detector in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of your house, including the basement. So, if you live in the average two-story, three-bedroom home, you should have at least five smoke alarms. (And while we're at it, four carbon monoxide detectors, which should be on each floor and outside bedrooms, too.)

Flames can consume a home in as little as five minutes. Smoke detectors save lives.

The NFPA's study found the risk of dying in a fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Installing alarms is the first step, but you also need to maintain them.

Replace your smoke detectors every 10 years. If they're combo* smoke-carbon monoxide alarms, replace them every five to seven years. And to be truly safe, you need a few fire extinguishers, too.

* whopping : huge, enormous

* combo : combination



News | Around Town

Old Computers Find New Life in Hands of Children with Disabilities

A nonprofit collects old computers, fixes 'em up and gives them to students with disabilities around the state.

Posted by Lauren Traut (Editor) , April 14, 2014

It might seem as though you're buying a new laptop every few years, and just when you do, something newer and better comes out.

Even older laptops can be useful, though, and some outdated computers in Tinley Park are being refurbished for use by children with disabilities.

"Just 'cause a computer may be too old doesn't mean that the memory can't be used, or the power cord can't be re-used or the keyboard or a mouse," Greg Grill, of Assistive Technology Exchange Network, told ABC7.

A service called "ATEN," short for Assistive Technology Exchange Network, is run by nonprofit group United Cerebral Palsy* Seguin of Greater Chicago. The service takes donated computers, tunes them up (including erasing the hard drives), and hands them off to students with disabilities throughout the state.

"Technology is a great equalizer for students with disabilities," Grill told ABC7. "It levels the playing field. It allows students to participate in the classroom, speak for the first time, gives them the opportunity for social networking."

* cerebral palsy : infirmité motrice cérébrale



Go Green or Go Home: Why Being Eco-Friendly is Good for Delivery

By Phil Dumontet • Tuesday April 15th, 2014

People often assume that making eco-friendly choices means spending more money. But more often than not, going green will actually save you money. Even mega corporations like Walmart are increasing profits by adopting environmentally friendly practices.

It turns out that what's good for the earth is also good for your business and its employees, especially if you offer delivery services. Additionally, you can save on expenses by offering environmentally friendly options.

Green means speed

The most environmentally friendly modes of transportation are also the cheapest. Using scooters, bikes and Smart cars can save you loads on gas while also increasing the number of deliveries you can manage in a day.

When employees make deliveries on bikes or scooters, they can find faster routes easier than in a conventional car. Alleys and smaller side roads become valid routes, and the problem of parking is completely removed. Smart cars can also fit into tighter parking spots than larger vehicles.

When you factor in better routes and fewer parking worries, that equates to faster delivery times — the most important competitive advantage you can have. Fast deliveries maximize profit and keep your customers happy.

Go green to attract consumers

A brand's eco reputation is becoming a growing concern for customers. People are looking for conscientious businesses to support, and establishing green practices will help you build trust within your market.



Homeless people forced out of vacant* home after fire

Farron Salley • 04/17/2014

TULSA, Okla. - A house fire in east Tulsa forced firefighters and police to kick out nearly a dozen homeless people.

Crews responded to a fire at a vacant home near 21st and Garnett streets. FOX23's Farron Salley found out what further action they plan to take and why neighbors are so concerned.

Every window around the home is broken. Neighbors said they're worried the people that damaged this home could do the same to their property too.

"I think they should keep them out or find them a place to go," said Johnnie Norman, a concerned neighbor.

When firefighters were called out around 9 a.m. Thursday morning for a fire all they found was smoke coming out of the fireplace.

"But what we found was this is a vacant structure in which several homeless people were staying in," said Capt. Ricky Powell with the Tulsa Fire Department.

They called police for backup while forcing nearly a dozen homeless people to leave. Neighbors knew there were some strangers hanging around but were shocked 10 people were living there.

Fire crews said the home is a safety hazard* and although neighbors told FOX23 they hate to see the people stranded outside, "because we have a lot of youth, children and older people in this area," said Norman.

They agree with police that they can't stay there.

* vacant : empty, unoccupied

* hazard : danger, risk



MoneyTalksNEWS

How Long Does It Take to Untangle Your Credit After a Divorce?

Gerri Detweiler • April 3, 2014

The day you find out your divorce is final may either feel like one of the worst days of your life or a cause for celebration, depending on whether you wanted to stay or go. Either way, it may not be truly over.

In a recent survey of divorced individuals by Credit.com, 40 percent of respondents said it took them more than six months to separate finances, and for 11 percent of them, it took more than three years.

If you are thinking of splitting up, or have already done so, and you want to move on as quickly as possible (creditwise*, at least), here are some steps that can make the process a little easier and faster.

Account for joint accounts

Closing out joint accounts at the first sign of trouble in your relationship can be a wise move. As long as joint accounts remain open, you are fully responsible for any and all charges made by you and your ex (or soon-to-be ex).

If you've already parted ways, you need to have a plan for handling balances left on any joint debts. Do not assume that just because the divorce decree says he or she must pay some or all of those balances that you are off the hook*. You are still bound* by the agreement you both made when you opened the account.

Monitor your credit monthly

[...]

* creditwise : concerning someone's credit

* to be off the hook : to be no longer in difficulty or trouble

* to be bound with : to have a contractual obligation



MoneyTalksNEWS

10 Fun and Inexpensive Things to Do With Your Kids This Weekend

Kimberly Winkowitsch • April 10, 2014

Are you looking for some fun and inexpensive things to do with your children this weekend? Having fun doesn't have to cost a lot of money.

Here are the top 10 tried and true ideas that I came up with:

1. Hide and seek in the dark with Glow Sticks*

I love this idea because it's simple and can be done for the price of a few Glow Sticks. Kids love games in the dark of night, so this is a sure winner.

2. Go to the river and play

I had so many of my friends mention this one that I had to include it. It's probably so popular because little children love throwing rocks into the water. This can entertain them for a long time.

3. Pizza party

Let them make their own pizzas and you have simple and fun dinner. My vote is to keep it easy for Mom or Dad by purchasing pre-made crusts or pizza kits.

Children love having ownership of their own pizzas and selecting their ingredients of choice.

5. Treasure hunt

Hide something and draw a map that the children have to follow to find the treasure. They can even take turns creating their own treasure map and hidden treasure for everyone else to find.

6. Nature walk

Take a walk and look for special birds, animals, insects or plants.

[...]

* Glow Stick : a plastic tube containing chemicals that produce phosphorescent light



DAILY NEWS
AMERICA

Girl and boy, aged 12 and 13, become Britain's youngest parents

The young couple are 'totally in love,' according to friends. The pre-teen girl's school friends didn't realize she was pregnant, despite her remaining in school until March.

BY LEE MORAN • Wednesday, April 16, 2014

A 12-year-old girl and her 13-year-old boyfriend have become Britain's youngest parents. The couple, who conceived when the then elementary schoolgirl was aged just 11, gave birth to a healthy baby daughter weighing 7-pounds-4 last weekend. Friends say the pair are "totally in love," are planning to bring up the infant together and eventually want to get married.

"Both sets of grandparents are incredibly supportive. It's a very difficult situation because the parents are both so young - but their families are right behind them," a source told The Sun. "The baby's mum and dad have been in a relationship for more than a year, so it isn't a fleeting* romance. They intend to stick together and bring their daughter up together," he added.

School friends said they had no idea the girl, who lives in a North London home with her 27-year-old mom, was pregnant.

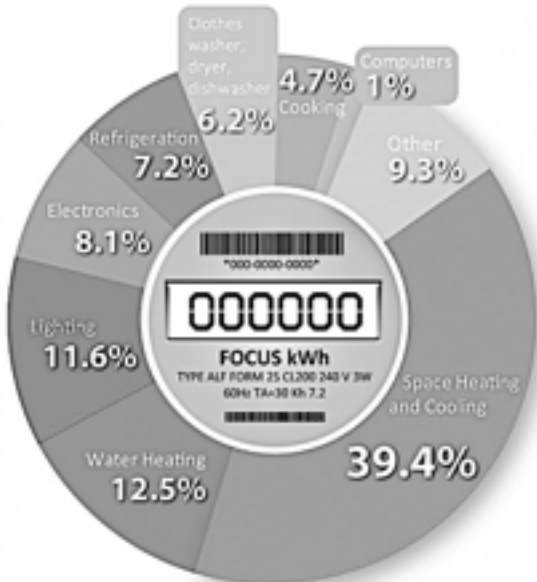
"Everyone is shocked. She was in school until March this year. She didn't look pregnant. She's only tiny anyway. She didn't have a bulge* on her," said one pal.

It's believed she wants to return to school in Sept. to continue her studies.

* fleeting : brief, short-lived

* bulge : a rounded swelling or protuberance

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home. Updated February 2011.

theguardian

Five energy saving home improvements

Taking steps to stop your home leaking energy needn't cost a fortune, but may well save you one

After months of winter weather, thousands of us are already getting ready for next year by blocking out the elements as best we can.

"I have spent this winter obsessively draught-proofing* my cottage on the cheap," says Siobhain Broughton, a medical professional. "It's just a matter of windows resealed, doors, skirting boards sealed up, and making sure I check behind appliances."

Such simple measures soon yield* big savings on energy, and bills, but for serious savers spending a bit extra can bring big results. More than 500,000 homes in Britain now generate their own electricity using solar panels.

Writer Rachel Newcombe and her husband opted for solar panels to generate electricity and heat their water in their new home. "It is fascinating keeping track of how much electricity we're generating each day, via a little gadget – even on dull days, there's a relatively decent amount generated," she explains.

"We're also now much more careful with how we use electrical items," she says.

"I've cut down on boiling unnecessary amounts of water in the kettle and we only use the washing machine and dishwasher when our gadget shows a tick – that there is enough electricity for it to be 'free!'"

* draught-proofing : (Brit.) to prevent a current of cool air in a room

* yield : produce



Research News

Social Work tackles challenges of America's aging population

By CHARLES ANZALONE • Published April 10, 2014

By the year 2050, the number of people age 65 or older will more than double. Within that exploding demographic, the “oldest-old” — or those people age 85 or older — will become the fastest-growing segment of that aging population, increasing by almost 70 percent over the next 20 years.

That makes these “oldest-old” the fastest-growing demographic of any in the United States. The people in this growing population face a challenge: They can take the opportunity to remain healthy, active and independent, or they can incur serious problems that could potentially be avoided or minimized if they had access to the resources and supportive services needed.

This is where the School of Social Work comes in. The school's new Institute of Innovative Aging Policy and Practice, or IIAPP, launched by Assistant Professor Louanne Bakk, aims to address those problems, , devoting its formidable research capabilities to finding solutions.

[...]

Additionally, the population will become more diverse, with racial and ethnic minority groups representing a larger proportion of the population.

“It's important to remember that despite advances within the policy arena, inequalities continue to exist — particularly in relation to race, ethnicity and gender,” says Bakk.

“Given the increase in the older adult population, it's critical social workers are knowledgeable and have an understanding of these people's needs and the issues surrounding their ability to remain independent within the community,” says Bakk.



Copywriter



the largest online community of people passionate about making a difference

How Fast Food Signs Can Make You Overeat

Shubhra Krishan • April 15, 2014

When “fast foods” were first introduced to the world, the idea was simple: quick and cheap foods would allow people to eat a meal on-the-go and move on to complete their work. This, it was believed, would help increase efficiency levels.

The idea proved to be appealing. Today, the consumption of fast food in America has jumped 500% in the last three decades. And with the passage of time, the brain has learned to recognize fast food signs as an indication to hurry up. According to a study done at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, just the sight of a familiar fast food sign can trigger* impatience.

During the study, participants were exposed very briefly to a leading fast food chain’s logo. Soon after, they were assigned simple tasks.

The results were telling: these participants read a book faster and chose time-saving products such as a two-in-one shampoo. Researchers connected this behavior to the subconscious message given off by the sight of the fast food sign: Hurry up!

Why is this bad for our health? When we order in a hurry, our nutrition can suffer. We might make more rash* decisions to consume high-calorie foods.

How do you feel when you see a fast food sign? Does any of this ring true for you?

* asparagus [əˈspɛrəɡəs] : asperge

* trigger : cause a situation to happen

* rash : impulsive



[Homepage](#) > [Product Reviews](#) > [Inside the Institute](#)

5 Million American Homes Are Missing This Major Item

BY LAUREN PIRO • APRIL 17, 2014

We just came across this scary stat from the National Fire Protection Association: Five million American homes don't have any smoke detectors. And what's more, "First Alert" reports that a study by the Institution of Fire Engineers found that US homes are lacking a whopping* 100 million smoke alarms in total.

You should have an alarm in every bedroom. And more.

One or two smoke alarms are far from enough in the average household. The NFPA recommends that you have a detector in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of your house, including the basement. So, if you live in the average two-story, three-bedroom home, you should have at least five smoke alarms. (And while we're at it, four carbon monoxide detectors, which should be on each floor and outside bedrooms, too.)

Flames can consume a home in as little as five minutes. Smoke detectors save lives.

The NFPA's study found the risk of dying in a fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Installing alarms is the first step, but you also need to maintain them.

Replace your smoke detectors every 10 years. If they're combo* smoke-carbon monoxide alarms, replace them every five to seven years. And to be truly safe, you need a few fire extinguishers, too.

* whopping : huge, enormous

* combo : combination



TinleyParkPatch 50° | Nearby ▾

Home News Blogs Conversations Events

News | Around Town

Old Computers Find New Life in Hands of Children with Disabilities

A nonprofit collects old computers, fixes 'em up and gives them to students with disabilities around the state.

Posted by Lauren Traut (Editor) , April 14, 2014

It might seem as though you're buying a new laptop every few years, and just when you do, something newer and better comes out.

Even older laptops can be useful, though, and some outdated computers in Tinley Park are being refurbished for use by children with disabilities.

"Just 'cause a computer may be too old doesn't mean that the memory can't be used, or the power cord can't be re-used or the keyboard or a mouse," Greg Grill, of Assistive Technology Exchange Network, told ABC7.

A service called "ATEN," short for Assistive Technology Exchange Network, is run by nonprofit group United Cerebral Palsy* Seguin of Greater Chicago. The service takes donated computers, tunes them up (including erasing the hard drives), and hands them off to students with disabilities throughout the state.

"Technology is a great equalizer for students with disabilities," Grill told ABC7. "It levels the playing field. It allows students to participate in the classroom, speak for the first time, gives them the opportunity for social networking."

* cerebral palsy : infirmité motrice cérébrale



Go Green or Go Home: Why Being Eco-Friendly is Good for Delivery

By Phil Dumontet • Tuesday April 15th, 2014

People often assume that making eco-friendly choices means spending more money. But more often than not, going green will actually save you money. Even mega corporations like Walmart are increasing profits by adopting environmentally friendly practices.

It turns out that what's good for the earth is also good for your business and its employees, especially if you offer delivery services. Additionally, you can save on expenses by offering environmentally friendly options.

Green means speed

The most environmentally friendly modes of transportation are also the cheapest. Using scooters, bikes and Smart cars can save you loads on gas while also increasing the number of deliveries you can manage in a day.

When employees make deliveries on bikes or scooters, they can find faster routes easier than in a conventional car. Alleys and smaller side roads become valid routes, and the problem of parking is completely removed. Smart cars can also fit into tighter parking spots than larger vehicles.

When you factor in better routes and fewer parking worries, that equates to faster delivery times — the most important competitive advantage you can have. Fast deliveries maximize profit and keep your customers happy.

Go green to attract consumers

A brand's eco reputation is becoming a growing concern for customers. People are looking for conscientious businesses to support, and establishing green practices will help you build trust within your market.