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For me, New Years resolutions carry with them the connotation of solidified, hardened resolve and the kind of decision-making that requires a substantial supply of steadfast determination to last an entire year.

I realize that this is not always, or even usually, the case. For some, New Years resolutions are defined by failure. Urban Dictionary (urbandictionary.com) describes it this way: "Given the arbitrary nature of the date and the sudden change of lifestyle demanded by most resolutions, it should not be surprising that most resolutions are abandoned by the start of the next year. Fortunately, the next New Year gives a person the opportunity to make the same resolution again."

So it seems that there are those who harbor the ironclad will to revolutionize our lives on the first of the year and then there are those of us peruse Urban Dictionary and cynically decide to abstain from the whole resolution issue. But what about the ones who choose to ignore both cynicism and outrageous expectation and decide to take small steps to eke out a slightly greener existence? Those are the folks I love to hear from.

I asked my boyfriend about his environmental ideas for the new year and he replied that he plans on picking up some plastic window treatments because, "our apartment is freezing! ...And it should cut our heat usage." I suspect that the new tools he got for Christmas may also play a part in his home and environment improvement plan but I'm happy that we'll have a diminished heating bill and an ebbing environmental footprint.

I rang in the New Year with Lisa, who revealed that she resolves "to recycle more. To suck it up and open the plastic container of possibly moldy food and not just pitch the whole thing." She's a brave lady and a crafty one, too, because she added that "on the same recycling note, I resolve to make as many things as possible with plastic bags. Maybe it will make me famous." Famous or not, it definitely makes her awesome.

Mary Jane shared this with us on my fancy environmental blog: "I want to drive less! I have driven a lot of miles this year and plan on getting back on my bike more. In addition, I will be writing even more letters than before to my representatives to support environmental initiatives. I find the best way to influence and educate people is to lead by example."

I couldn't agree more, and that is why I am pleased that people are sharing their ideas for simple resolutions to mark a brand new year. Thanks to all who shared and celebrated our clean slate for a cleaner planet!

In other news, would you like a fancy 2008 calendar to help you keep track of your recycling resolutions? What if I told you it features anti-little artwork by little kids? Just let me know and I'll mail you one. You can check it out on my fancy new environmental blog, found at <http://kyecogeek.blogspot.com/>. While you're at it, please share your own ideas for an ecologically improved 2008 and investigate a new Internet invention, Great Moments in Cinematic Littering.

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	Yes, recycle it!	Not allowed!	Anything else?
Plastic	Bottles with #1 or #2 on them, including: Soda bottles Detergent jugs Milk jugs Vitamin containers Shampoo bottles	To be recyclable, plastic must have a spout, or an opening that is smaller than the rest of the container. Because of this, we can't allow items like: Butter/yogurt tubs Buckets Food trays Also, no oil jugs. They're gross.	Please take off the lids. They're a different and not recyclable type of plastic. Oh, and if you get a chance, rinse containers out and squash them flat.
Glass	Any color glass bottle or food jar	Widow glass and drinking glass aren't good, nor is broken glass. We've got to help look out for the guys who pick up our recycling.	Once again, no lids! No corks, either! And rinse out the bottle!
Paper	Oh man. We take all kinds of paper.		
Metal			