Fleeson G♻ing Green

Quick Facts

31% of plastic soft drink bottles, 45% of aluminum cans and 67% of all major appliances are now recycled.

More than 3x more people lack water than live in the United States.

Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and carefully. Residential use of pesticides accounts for about 8% of all pesticide applications. Urban runoff accounts for about 14% of common water pollution, and just over half of that is due to residential use of fertilizers.

If every household in the United States replaced just one box of virgin fiber facial tissues (175 sheets) with 100% recycled ones, we could save 163,000 trees. One roll of virgin toilet paper: 423,900 trees; one roll of paper towels: 544,000 trees; one package of napkins: one million trees.

Project Repat

So you've got some old T-shirts that you no longer find useful. How nice of you to pack them up and donate them to Goodwill or the DAV! They hang out on the thrift store racks for a few months, but no matter how low they're marked, the stores simply can't move them. So they ship them overseas to developing countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Haiti. Surely the third-world citizens in these places are in desperate need of essential items like clothing. Surely, here, your old 1993 firm softball champions t-shirt will finally realize its full potential in aiding the underprivileged. As ideal as this seems, it's not entirely accurate. Third-world countries actually aren't in great need for our discarded clothing at all. In fact, about 95% of the clothing purchased by United States citizens eventually gets unloaded into the developing world.

Out of this excess has sprung an interesting new fad among the receivers of this mass of old clothing. Local artisans buy used T-shirts from their neighborhood thrift stores and then use them as raw textile material. In a process called upcycling, local citizens transform several old shirts into one new stylish clothing item. Essen-

YOUR OLD T-SHIRT JUST HAD A KENYAN FACELIFT.

Project Repat is partnering with Kenyan artisans to transform select castoff t-shirts into something completly new.

tially, they make cool Franken-garments and then resell them as their own creations.

In an ironic twist on American consumerism, Project Repat, founded by Ross Lohr and Sean Hewens, purchases these recreated garments from the secondhand market in Nairobi, Kenya, and sells them right back to us. Hence the name: Project Repat (repatriation). The repatriated garments sell at $25-$30 each, with 100% of the profits going toward support of nonprofit organizations to improve the lives of citizens in the countries from which they were repatriated. The profits from the company's pilot stage allowed them to build a solar-powered computer in Tanzania and finance five Tanzanian girls for a full year of schooling. In addition to donations to non-profits, Project Repat seeks to support local small businesses and raise awareness about American over-consumption and the environmental impact of purchasing already existing goods.

Office Computer Recycling

Did you know our office recycles computers? It's true! Tech Support collects our old computers as well as any computers employees bring to the office and takes them to Starkey Inc. (4500 W. Maple), a company which provides programs for development of people with intellectual disabilities. Starkey provides this service to the public at no charge, and they accept the following items: computers, monitors, keyboards, mice, laptops, scanners, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players, cell phones, tabletop copiers, and printers. Starkey's e-cycling program provides work for disabled men and women, who disassemble the electronics and sort, package, and ship the parts to recycling companies. The program operates 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday.