

## Cleaning Up the Environment

*by Joan Mish*

Soap as defined in my dictionary is a cleaning agent. Do we have a cleaning agent for the environment? YES, it is us. We can clean up the environment by living a simpler life.

Here are some ways to clean up the planet:

**Reduce, reuse, and recycle.** Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

**Conserve water.** The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually ends up in the ocean.

**Shop wisely.** Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.

**Use long-lasting light bulbs.** Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

**Don't send chemicals into our waterways.** Choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and office.

**Educate.** When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

**Walk** or ride a bike to places.

My children here in Denver have a compost bin in their backyard and for a while when I saw a worm on the ground I would save it for them. Worms are good for compost bins. This family does have a large garden in their backyard where they grow lots of vegetables.

Cleaning up our environment is the soap we need to keep our planet clean.