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NYC Lifestyle

Tips for a Greener Lifestyle

Zero-Waste Candles

Tea light candles are an easy way to add a little magic to a space. Why not add that magic without creating any waste? [This tutorial from Green Matters](#) shows how to make your own refillable candles using mason jars, vintage teacups, mugs, or small pots as your vessel.

Sustainability for Cats

Even your cat can practice sustainability and add some style to your home décor. Using an old frame and a carpet you can put together [a scratch pad](#) for the wall that your cat will love. If you have an old frame that you just haven't thrown out yet, put some fresh paint on it and add a pop of color to your room.

Reimagine Your Leftovers

Not sure what to do with yesterday's veggies or overripe bananas? Cut the waste and [check out these inventive recipes](#) from The Spruce Eats. The White Chocolate Bread Pudding using a week's worth of sandwich crust definitely got our attention!

Homemade Watercolor Paint

Don't throw out your old markers just yet! Dried out markers can be repurposed into water paints by following [these simple steps](#) from an Australian mom-blogger named Kate. Not only is her invention a great use of what you already have at home, but your kids can now practice watercolor art with less mess.

Upcycling and repurposing what we typically toss in the trash is a creative way to reduce the amount of waste we produce. From DIY candles to upcycled cat toys, integrating these practices into your daily routine is easy and helps support a cleaner, more sustainable New York City.



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Eco-Friendly Bedding

Another way to live more sustainably is by using eco-friendly, non-toxic bedsheets. Check out this [list of sustainable bedding brands](#) that carefully source their materials and maintain production lines that minimize their environmental footprint. Not only will the planet benefit from your switch to one of these brands, but so will you!

Keepsake T-Shirt Blankets

If you just can't let go of your favorite concert tees but don't seem to wearing them anymore, why not turn them into a blanket? Companies like [Keepsake T-Shirt Blankets](#) take your old t-shirts and create quilts and blankets full of nostalgia. Nearly every one of Keepsake's employees are deaf or hard of hearing, so each purchase helps support a noble cause.

Countertop Herb Garden

Looking for a new hobby? We found one that doesn't require you to leave your apartment, which is ideal for February. Using old mason jars for growing herbs is both resourceful and a lively addition to your shelf or countertop. Read about how to start your garden [here](#). Spoiler alert – you only need four items!

Un-bottle Your Shampoo

Start reducing your reliance on single-use plastics by eliminating unnecessary shampoo and conditioner bottles. Companies like [Lush](#), [Ethique](#) and [by HumanKind](#) sell ethically-sourced shampoos and conditioners that forgo the plastic packaging. Depending on the number of people in your household you could make a big difference.