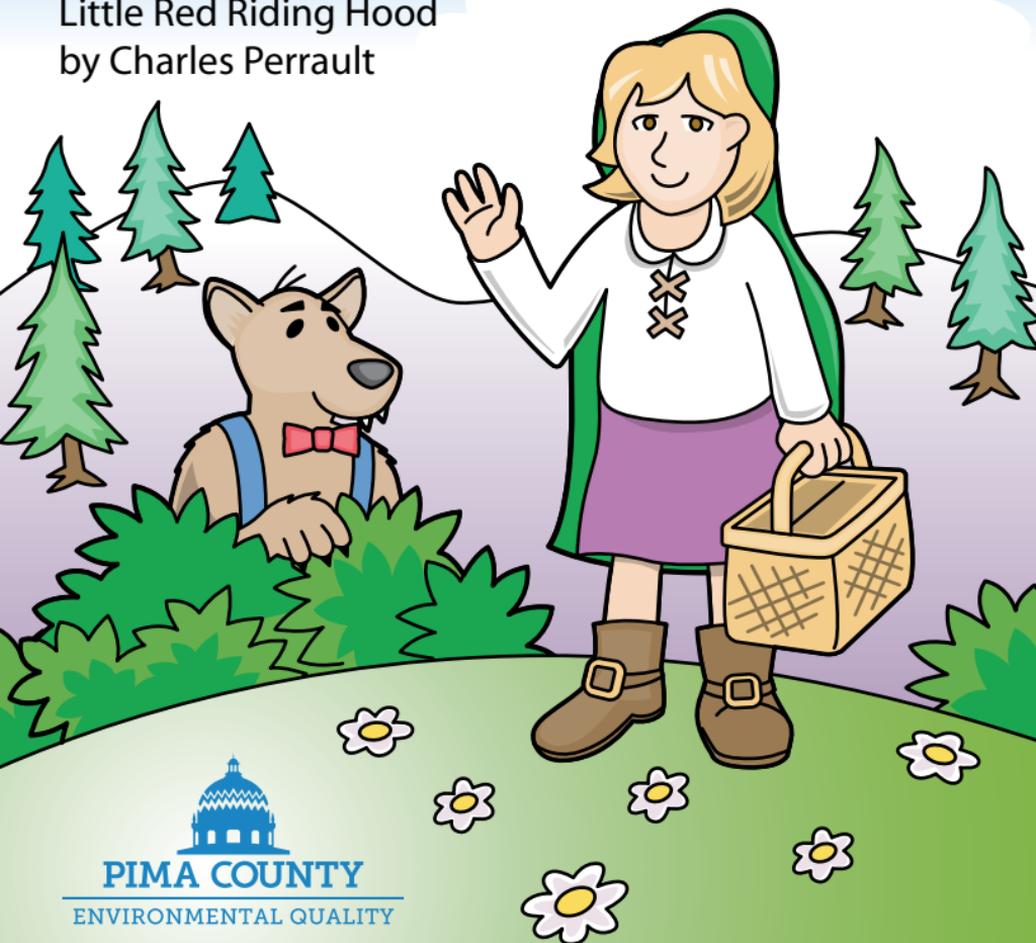


The Story of Little Green Riding Hood

Adapted from
Little Red Riding Hood
by Charles Perrault





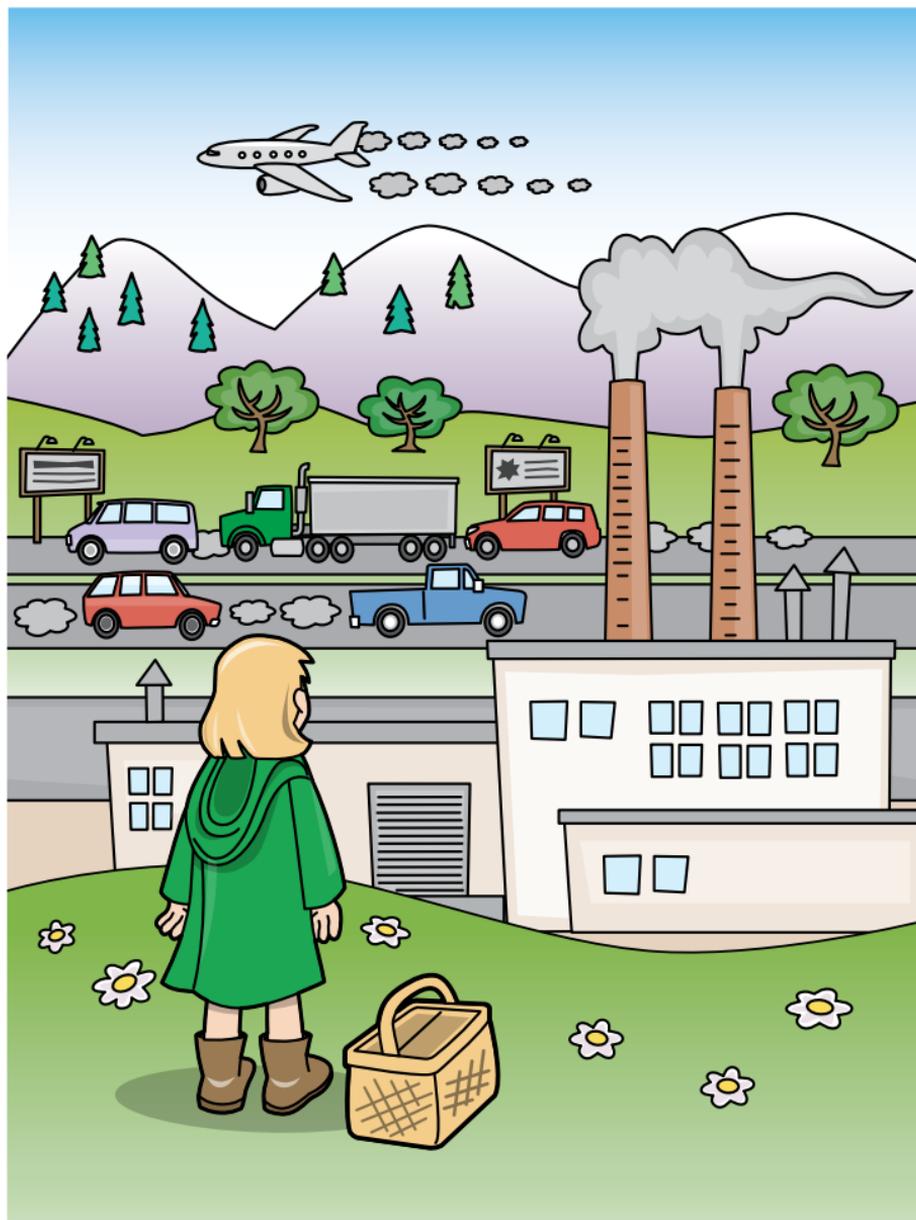
Once upon a time there lived in a certain village a little country girl, the kindest little creature who was ever known. Her name was Brigid. Brigid's mother was excessively fond of her daughter, and her grandmother doted on her still more. Brigid's mother was an exceptionally bright woman who was very well educated in the arts of energy conservation and planet protection, and she owned a home improvement store. All the townsfolk from near and far could purchase all sorts of gadgets and appliances from Brigid's mother that would help them save money, save energy, and live good, green lives.

Some time ago, Brigid's mother had in her store some sturdy green fabric made from recycled plastic bottles. She took this cloth and fitted her daughter with a little green riding hood to keep her warm in the crisp winter air. It suited the girl so extremely well that everybody called her Little Green Riding Hood.

One day, Mother called to her daughter, "Go now my child, and see how your grandmother is doing." As she gathered some items from her store, she continued, "And will you bring her these energy-saving supplies?" As she hugged her child good-bye, she placed a bus pass in the basket containing the gifts.



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Little Green Riding Hood set out immediately to visit her grandmother who lived in another village. As she walked through their little town, she navigated car traffic up and down the streets, scrunching her nose at their smelly exhaust.

She stopped by a construction site and watched a giant excavator digging into the ground, kicking up clouds of dust. She passed near a coal-burning power plant and watched the smoke billow up from its stacks. And Little Green Riding Hood coughed as she breathed in the polluted air.

Little Green Riding Hood felt much happier when she reached the edge of town and came to the luscious forest filled with trees young and old, little forest animals, and fresh, clean air. As she was skipping through the woods, the happy girl met a hard-working wolf. He, too, was in business and had a very great mind to make many useful things and sell whatever he could to earn a living. Wolf, who had just finished chopping down some trees, stopped the little girl and said to her, "Excuse me young miss, might you like to buy some

firewood to burn in your fireplace and keep warm this cold winter?"



The curious girl looked at the pile of logs stacked beside Wolf. She then looked at Wolf, and looked at the logs again. And, she noticed something.

Little Green Riding Hood replied, "Oh, no thank you friendly Wolf. I see that you have just chopped down those pine trees to make these logs and they are much too fresh to burn as they would create a lot of thick smoke. Even seasoned logs from a pine tree are too soft to burn cleanly. No, I will wait to buy dry, seasoned firewood and make sure it is a hard wood like oak or mesquite so it burns hotter and cleaner. And," continued Little Green Riding Hood, "to help keep the air clean, we don't have very many fires in our fireplace anyway."



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Ever wanting to make a sale, Wolf grinned wide, showing his large, sharp teeth and replied politely. "My, you are a bright young lady. I shall be sure to provide only dry, seasoned firewood from now on." Taking note of what this smart child had hanging on her arm, the wolf continued, "I see your fine basket filled with interesting supplies. Are you making a delivery?"

The poor child, who did not know that it might be dangerous to stay and talk with a strange wolf, said to him, "Why, yes, Mr. Wolf. I am going to visit my grandmother and I am bringing her some gifts from my mother's energy-saving houseware store."

At the exciting prospect of having another household as a customer, Wolf's large ears perked up stiffly and he asked, "Oh? Does she live far off?"

"Not very far," answered Little Green Riding Hood. "It is just over yonder, the first house in the village right beyond the solar energy farm."

"Well," said Wolf, "I'll go and visit her too. I'll go this way and you go that way, and we shall see who will get there first."

Wolf ran just as fast as he could, but first stopping at his shop to pick up a cart filled with items he might sell, and then taking the shortest path. The little girl, on the other hand, took a meandering way, entertaining herself by collecting nuts and berries, chasing after butterflies, and gathering little bouquets of flowers for her hair.



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It was not long before Wolf arrived at the old woman's house. As he drew closer, he looked this way and he looked that way, and he noticed some things. And Wolf knocked at the door: tap, tap, tap.

"Who's there?" asked Grandmother.

"'Tis a wonderful opportunity for you to live more enjoyably and comfortably," replied Wolf.

Ever curious, the good grandmother quickly opened her creaky door to see what wonderful opportunity she had before her.

"Good day, ma'am," Wolf said with a wide, toothy grin. As he gestured towards his supply cart, he continued,



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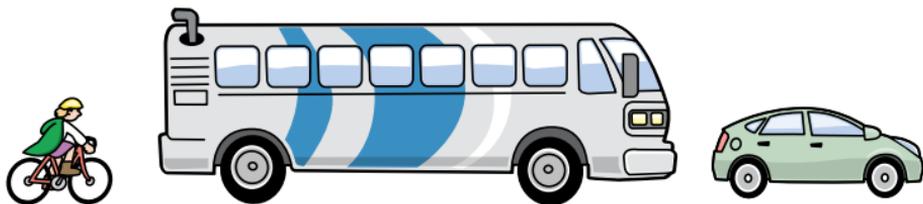
"I have with me some very useful items that you could use around your home to make your life easier."

"Oh, is that so? What have you to sell today?" replied Grandmother.

Wolf puffed up his chest and replied, "I noticed that you do not have a car in your carport, ma'am. I have with me a set of keys to a fine new vehicle with which you can get to places better."

"Oh, no thank you," chuckled Grandmother. "We don't need a new car. My husband just took our clean-fueled car in for its regular maintenance checkup and to make sure the tires are properly inflated. And we certainly don't need a second car because we also ride the bus to many places, sometimes carpool with our neighbors, ride our bikes, or even walk if our travels are near."

Grandmother noticed that Wolf seemed puzzled and continued on. "Did you know that driving motor vehicles causes about half of the air pollution in our little village? Breathing air pollution gives me headaches, and sometimes triggers my asthma making it hard for me to breathe. So, we try to drive our car as little as possible."

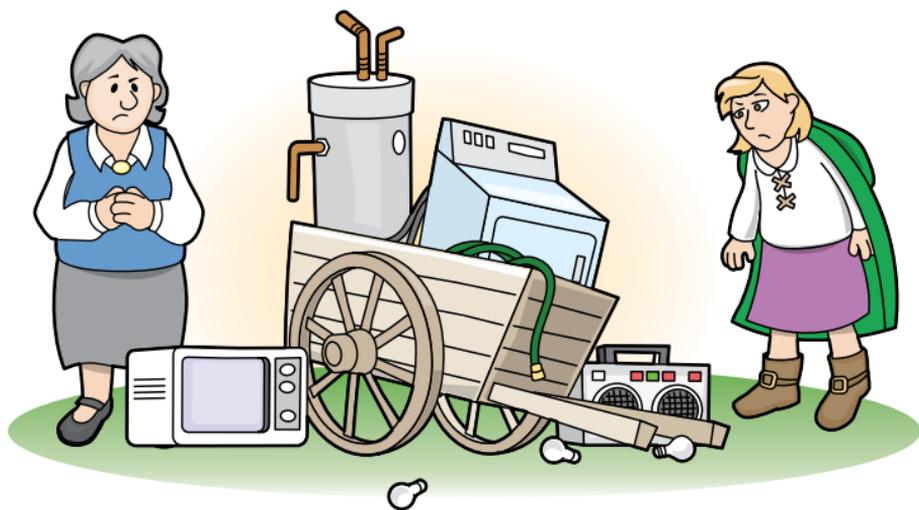


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"Hmmm," said Wolf, distracted because he still wanted to make a sale. "I see that your home is a little dark and very quiet. I have with me some light bulbs and lamps with which your eyes might see better. And televisions, stereos, and DVD players so that you may have entertainment."

"Oh," replied Grandmother. "We have all those things. It's just that they're turned off right now because I am not using them. And I see that you have those old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs. We use energy-saving compact fluorescent and LED bulbs."

"How about this garden hose?" Wolf asked persistently. "You can use it to water the plants around your house."



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"Oh, no thank you," replied Grandmother. "We have as many hoses as we need, and we actually have a drip irrigation system hooked up to our rainwater collection barrels. We also use soil mounds and dips to direct the rain to our bushes and trees."

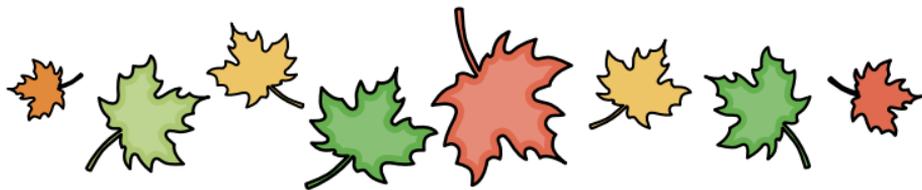
By this time Little Green Riding Hood arrived at the old woman's house, and as she gave her grandmother the biggest, squishiest hug that ever lived, she saw that Wolf was already there. "Oh, hello there friendly Wolf," she said. "I see that you've already arrived at Grandmother's house!"

"Yes," said Wolf dejectedly. "But I haven't made a sale yet!"

"What have you to sell besides smoky firewood?" asked the caring girl.

"I have many things any household might desire," whined Wolf, motioning to his cart.

Little Green Riding Hood examined Wolf's cart and all the items that he brought to sell. She looked at Wolf, then back at the cart again. And, she noticed something. "Well," said the little girl, "if you don't mind me saying so, all these devices you have to sell use up way too much energy. Look here at the items that I have brought for Grandmother from my mother's store."

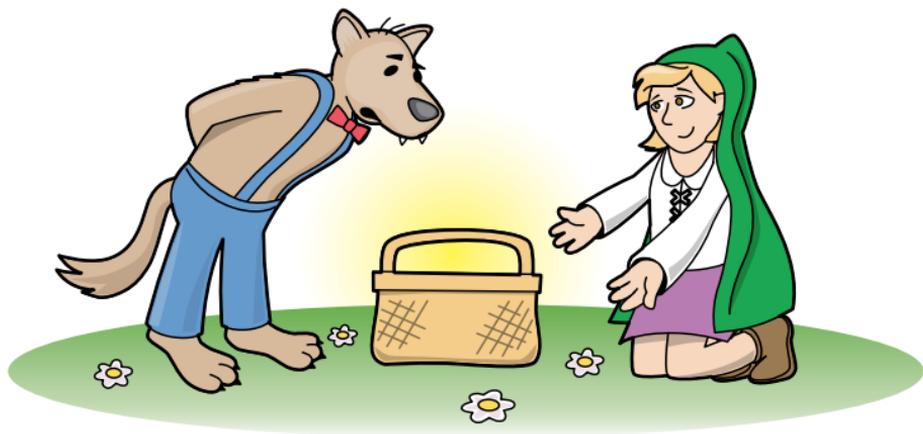


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As Little Green Riding Hood reached into her basket, she explained, "Here is a compact fluorescent light bulb. These use 75 percent less energy, and last 10 times longer than the bulbs you have for sale. Using a power strip like this one, and switching it off when you're not using the devices that are plugged into it, saves energy. This faucet aerator saves lots of water, which also saves energy. And this fine cloth that Grandmother can use for crafts or sew into clothing is made from recycled soda bottles. Recycling and reusing saves lots of energy and, of course, natural resources too."

"Huh," snorted the wolf. "And I suppose saving energy is something that really matters?"

"Oh, yes! Most definitely!" replied Little Green Riding Hood. "Saving energy saves money and natural resources, and it reduces air pollution and greenhouse gases that are changing the climate."

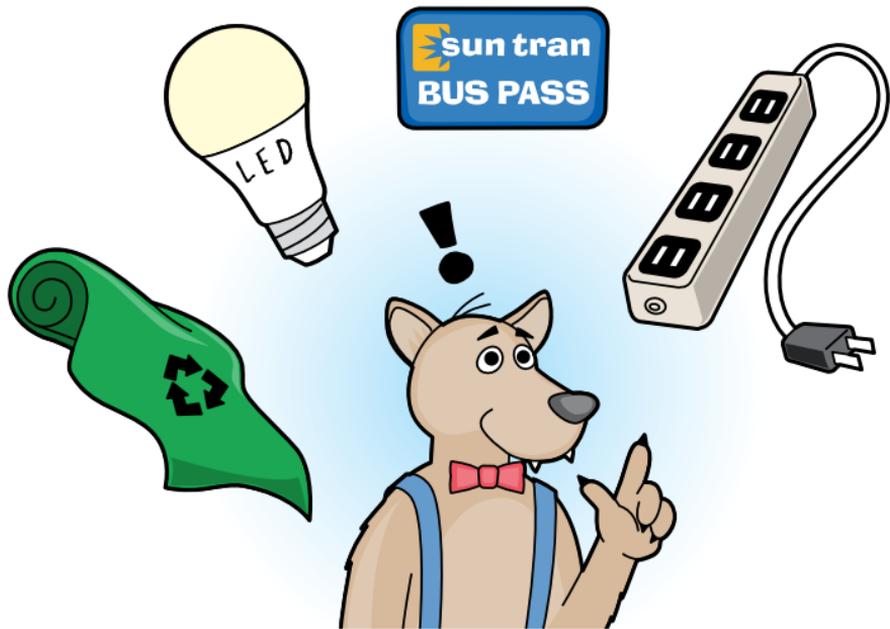


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"People can get sick from breathing air pollution, you know! And changes to the natural environment are affecting everyone's lives."

Little Green Riding Hood reached into her basket and pulled out her reusable water bottle. After she took a cool sip of water, she continued, "You know, Mr. Wolf, you can buy all kinds of energy saving appliances for a household, even computers and refrigerators, at my mother's store. Using these will help our village and the whole world!"

"Hmmm!" said the wolf thoughtfully as he noticed one last item in Little Green Riding Hood's basket, "What is that card you have there?"

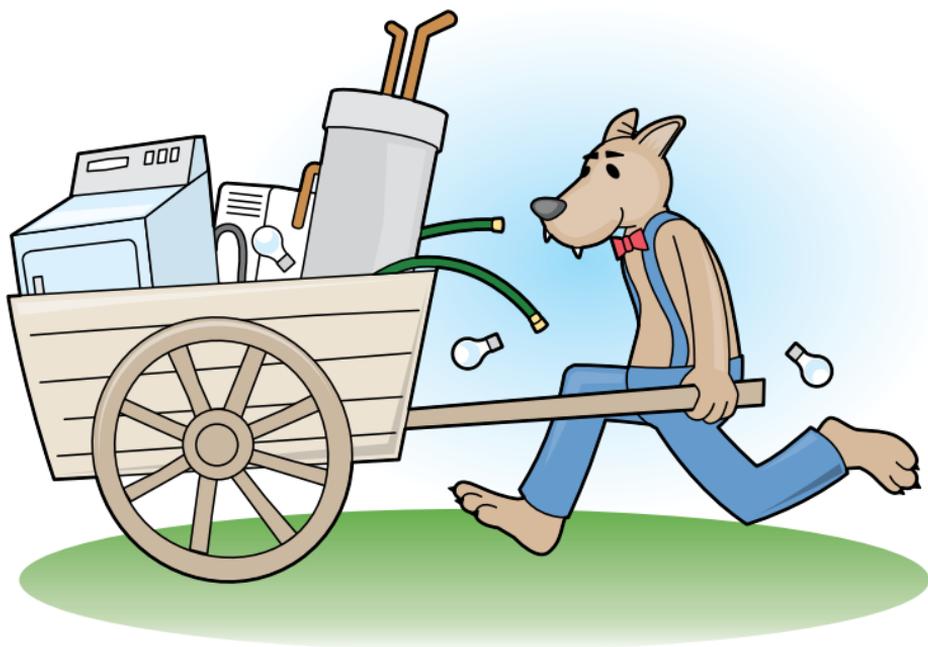


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"Oh, this is my bus pass," replied the little girl. "After all, I do enjoy a scamper through the woods, but my village is a bit far away and I'd like to get home before dark. I'd also rather avoid a car ride home to help keep the air healthy for Grandmother, and me, and even for you to breathe, friendly Wolf."

With that, the excited Wolf's eyes grew wide. So wide, in fact, that they nearly popped out of his head. "Oh my!" said Little Green Riding Hood. "What big eyes you have!"

"All the better with which to see these energy-wise and money saving devices, my dear."



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And then with a howl so loud it made the trees shudder, Wolf scampered off through the forest pushing his cart frantically to find the houseware store that Little Green Riding Hood's mother owned so he could buy some energy-saving and air-pollution-reducing devices of his very own.

And that was the end of that!



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