The Green Thing Idea

The woman apologized and explained,

 "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

 The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not

 care enough to save our environment for future generations."

 She was right -- our gene ration didn't have

 the green thing in its day.

 Back then, we returned milk

 bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent

 them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so

 it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were

 recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our

 day.

 Grocery stores

 bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for

 numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was

 the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books.

 This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our

 use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbling. Then we were

 able to personalize our books. But too bad we didn't do the green

 thing back then.

 We walked up

 stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and

 office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb

 into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

 But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

 Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we

 didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in

 an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar

 power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got

 hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always

 brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the

 green thing back in our day.

 Back then, we had one TV, or

 radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a

 small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a

 screen the size of the state of Montana . In the kitchen, we blended

 and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do

 everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the

 mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam

 or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and

 burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on

 human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a

 health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But

 she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

 We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or

 a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled

 writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced

 the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor

 just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing

 back then.

 Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and

 kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their

 moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a

 room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And

 we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from

 satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest

 burger joint.

 But isn't it sad? the current gene ration laments how wasteful we older folks were just because we didn't have

 the green thing back then?

 Please forward this on to another person who needs a lesson in conservation from smartass

 young people.