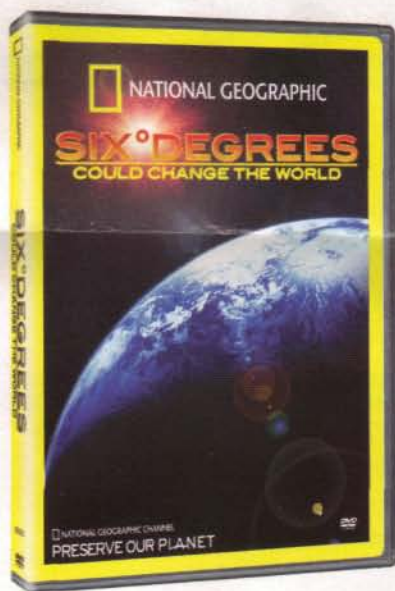


enter to win



six degrees

National Geographic reveals the effects of global warming, illustrating the likely consequences of rising temperatures on Earth degree by degree. In the DVD *Six Degrees Could Change the World*, learn how existing technologies and remedies may help in the battle to turn back the dial on the global thermometer.

For a chance to win a copy of *Six Degrees Could Change the World*, available on DVD April 15, log on to njfamily.com and click on the Promotions tab, which links to the Giveaway. Deadline for entry is April 24; one entry per family please. For New Jersey residents only.

visit njfamily.com
for this month's giveaway

parenting file



a literal free-for-all

by Merry Strong

Are you a bargain hunter? Does your car tend to stop automatically at every Saturday-morning garage sale? Is your home filled with great items, lovingly rescued from someone else's trash? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Freecycle Network™ might be right up your alley.

The Freecycle Network, at freecycle.org, is not really a new idea. It originated in Tucson, Arizona, in May 2003, but Earth Day (on April 22) always serves as a reminder to be a little more kind to our planet. So in case freecycling is new to you, here's how it works:

The Freecycle Network, organized in the hope that one person's trash truly would be another person's treasure, is a literal free-for-all. Its initial aim was to cut down on city curbside trash by linking people with "stuff" to give away to people who want that "stuff" for free. Since its inception, Freecycle has grown from one local community group to more than 4,250 groups internationally. The "communities" are actually electronic forums; a local volunteer in a real-life community moderates each one.

To sign up, you'll need access to a Yahoo! account, which you can join on the spot.

Once you have located your local forum information on the main page of the Freecycle site, simply supply your email address. You will receive a welcome email containing detailed instructions about how to proceed. (If there isn't a group in your area, the Freecycle Network encourages you to start your own.) Once you have signed up, get ready to be amazed at the things people are willing to give away.

Another feature of the Freecycle network allows you to ask for items that you need—either small or large. Of course, there is no guarantee that you will get what you want, but as a rule, Freecyclers are very generous. You might be surprised.

(As an avid Freecycler, I highly recommend that when subscribing to this list you opt to receive individual emails. Many times, highly sought items are claimed within minutes. If you receive notices in digest mode, you will rarely get a chance to pick up these wonderful treasures.)

There is only one basic posting rule: everything must be free, legal, and suitable for all ages. Happy freecycling! **f**

Merry Strong is passionate about recycling and freecycling.