

“Transporting you to 2050 and the Future Chicken Squawkarama Podcast. In three, two, one.

Whoa, whoa! Potato!

Turbo mode activated.

What? I said potato.

Slow down, pants!

Slow down, dance mode activated.

Slow down, dance?

What? Whoa, Frittata, I didn't know eggs could dance.

I can't, but these brand new Turbo Booster 3000 pants can.

Whoa, those are some high-flying pants. How? I'm a chicken.

Even in the year 2050, I can't fly as well as those pants.

Over there, I dropped the instructions.

Ah, to turn off, the voice command is deactivate. Deactivate, deactivate!

Turbo Booster 3000 pants deactivated.

Commence recharging. Thanks, Potato.

Happy to help, but what happened, Frittata?

Well, I saw a video for these new pants, the Turbo Booster 3000s. All the eggs are talking about them.

Look pretty cool.

Yeah, and they do all this awesome stuff, like trick shots on the basketball court and jumping higher than the CN Tower in Toronto.

Do you want to do that kind of stuff?

Well, maybe not every day, but you know, I got excited and I ordered a pair for a test flight. But the Turbo Booster 3000s don't work like my regular rocket pants”

“Maybe you just need practice. Want to try them some more? I can activate-

No, no, no, no. I'm good for now. Can you help me into my old rocket pants?

Got you.

Buckle up your rocket pants, Frittata. We've got Planet Protectors from the present tuned in to the Bio Barn.

Oops.

Rocket pants on and ready for action.

Hey Planet Protectors, so glad you could hang out with us in the year 2050.

Things are a little different in the future. Our lives are greener, the sky is bluer.

And the planet is in recovery from some tough times for the environment. Ahem.

Ready to meet Robin Greenfield?

Be right there, Circuitry.

That's Circuitry. Her ancient roots are connected to the wood-wide web. It's how she controls the Time Twister Portal, so we can talk to you and visit your time.

So Circuitry, how's Robin Greenfield protecting the planet?

He's teaching people how to reduce waste and live simply in the 2020s.

Cool. Ready to Time Twist Robin on your portal screen to chat with us?"

"My roots are revved and ready.

Then let's do it.

Opening portal in 3, 2, 1. One.

Oy, hello Robin.

Hi Potato, hello Frittata. So nice to be here with you.

It's so good to see you. Your name is Robin, which is a bird, like me.

Yes, a couple of birds together here.

One bird to another. Can you tell me why you became a protector of our planet?

Sure, well, about 10 years ago in my early 20s, I was actually living a pretty typical lifestyle, and I was very focused on money, and having a nice house, and a shiny car, and all of that. And then what happened is I started to watch some documentaries and read some books, and I learned that almost everything I was doing was causing destruction to the earth and to our plant and animal friends. And I decided I was gonna live in a different way.

I wanted to live in a way that was in harmony with our plant and animal friends, with earth and with humanity. And that's what I've been doing for the last decade.”

“That sounds awesome. That's what we're trying to do here as well with our planet protectors.

I have a bunch of nicknames, like Fritz, Eggster, Grandmaster Scrambled Egg. You have an unusual nickname. What is it?

So people started calling me the trash man in New York City in 2016. And the reason why is I decided that for one month I was gonna live just like the average person, eating and shopping and consuming, just like so many people are used to. But with one big exception, I had to wear every piece of trash that I created.

Every plastic bag, every candy bar wrapper, you name it. And so day after day, I had more trash on me. And by the end of the month, I was wearing 87 pounds of garbage.

Whoa, that's almost 40 kilograms.

What else weighs that much? Planet Protectors, help us out. Does a bicycle weigh more, less, or about the same as one month of trash?

Rocket Pants, what's the answer?

Okay, what about bricks? Those are heavy. Do 10 bricks weigh more?

Or the same?

Rocket Pants?"

"Less. 10 bricks weigh about 20 kilograms or 44 pounds. You would need to double that to around 20 bricks to equal 40 kilograms.

I'd be exhausted carrying one brick. Imagine carrying 20 around all day.

Well, sometimes kids would chase me down the street wanting to get to meet the trash man. But what happens so often is they would look inside of my clear plastic suit and they would see the trash that I was creating. And they would see, oh, these are the same things we're using.

Plastic bottles and plastic forks and spoons and straws. And they would see these things and they'd say, hmm, okay, we're doing that too. Is there a different way that we can do it?

That's such a great reminder for us about how much trash we make all the time, right?

Yes, that was the idea. I wanted to create a visual where next time someone was reaching for that plastic cup or that straw, they would think of me, the trash man. And they would say, I don't want to leave behind a mountain of trash for future generations.”

“I wanna live in a way where I clean up the earth, not trash it.

A lot of the trash in your suit was packaging. Why is there so much packaging on stuff?

Well, the answer to that is many different reasons. Sometimes it's a matter of making things look better so that people are more likely to buy it. Sometimes it's for protecting things.

My bird brain is buzzing with an idea for a game. I'm calling it, Let's Unpack That.

How do we play?

I'm gonna name something, you shout out yes if it needs packaging or no if it does not. Ready?

Ready.

Yes, they need packaging or no, they don't.

Hey Planet Protectors, how'd you do?

Get the same answers as me.

Okay Robin, do you have any tips on how we can buy without so much packaging?

Yes, one is buy things second hand if you can. So that means going to thrift stores, but you don't even have to buy things. You can just exchange them with your friends.

So a big one is sharing.

I love sharing.

What else can we do?"

"One of the big ways to reduce your packaging is just to buy a lot less stuff in the first place. So most of the stuff we think we need, we actually don't. So what you can do is next time you're thinking you want something, ask yourself, do I really need this?

Is it gonna bring value to my life? Or is it just something that I'm wanting in this moment? So take a pause and think about that before deciding to buy another thing.

Yeah, sometimes I get excited to get the newest version of something. It's hard not to when I see all the new features. But I probably don't need it when what I have works perfectly fine.

Like the Turbo Booster 3000 pants?

Don't mention that in front of my regular rocket pants.

Jealousy mode on. I can help other eggs too, you know.

Come on, you know you're my favorite.

Harumph.

Now Robin, I've heard that once you could fit all your stuff into a backpack, can you share what you had in that backpack?"

"Yeah, so at the time, I had my life simplified down to just 44 possessions. And the average person in the United States or Turtle Island is over 10,000 possessions. So when I say 44 possessions, that means including every pair of socks or underwear, my t-shirts, that included my computer.

I had a knife, I had a pot for cooking food in, I had a toothbrush and toothpaste, just the very basic things. And it was a beautiful, simple time of my life.

So just the necessities.

The bare necessities.

Ooh, let's think about that for a moment. So Planet Protectors, what would you put in your backpack? What are your bare necessities?

Hmm, I need my mini solar power charger and what else?

Could you fit your rocket pants in there?

No need to, I'll be wearing them. Most of the things I really need are in the pockets.

Oh, right.

Love my rocket pants. They're a necessity for an egg living in 2050.

Ah, jealousy mode off. You're my favorite egg.

We make an awesome pair. Now what about you, Potato? What's in your backpack?"

"Hmm, my potato peeler, a comb for my comb, and my favorite book to read before bed. Well, thank you so much for giving us all of these tips and inspiration on what we can do even as kids to protect our planet. Thank you, Robin Greenfield.

Bye, Potato. Bye, Frittata.

Hey, Circuitry, thanks for connecting us with Robin. I'm all fired up to keep protecting the planet by living with less unnecessary things.

Yeah, that way we can reduce the waste we make.

Even in 2050, when we've been following this advice for 30 years, we can still do better.

Yeah, people have made changes, and there's less plastic packaging in the future.

Every time we put the planet first, it helps the earth a little more.

And little changes add up over time. You know, while the time twister is on, we could do a little time traveling.

Really? Where and when do you want to go?

To New York City in 2016.

That's when Robin was wearing his trash suit in Union Square.

Exactly. Circuitry, could you time twist Frittata and I to Union Square in 2016?"

“I have got you covered.

There are so many people in Union Square. How are we going to find Robin?

Just look for the person in the trash suit.

Oh, yeah.

But let's take a look at what Robin was telling us about. Check out all these store windows. Brand new everything.

So many shiny new things to buy. I want it all.

Do you even know what they are?

Not exactly.

Would you put those things in your backpack?

No, so I don't really need it. Like Robin said, getting less stuff is better for the Earth.

Right. Check out this supermarket window.

So many bags and boxes. Everything is in packaging.

Yeah, and most of it is plastic. We don't have much of that in 2050.

There's even little plastic cups with fruit slices in them. How strange to put fruit in plastic.

Ugh, I can see why Robin got frustrated with all this packaging.

Where do you think he is?

Let me ask this pigeon.

Pigeon.

What do the birds say?

Well, she loves the color of my big beautiful chicken comb. Oh, and she's going to take us to Robin. Follow that pigeon!"

"There he is by the playground.

It's hard to see Robin. He's surrounded by a bunch of kids.

Hey, this playground is right next to a farmer's market.

And these kids aren't eating the fruit and plastic cups. They're buying it at the farmer's market with no packaging at all.

Just like Robin recommended for avoiding packaging and protecting the planet.

Whoa, take a look at that, family. They all have reusable water bottles and are filling up canvas bags with their groceries.

It looks like the message is getting out there. Less packaging means less waste.

Yeah, kids and their families are making choices that are better for the Earth.

These kids are definitely planet protectors. And over time, all of these decisions add up to a healthier planet for chickens, eggs, and kids.

I've seen enough. I'm ready to get back home.

What's the rush?

I've got some new pants to return.

So you don't need the extra fancy Turbo Booster 3000s?

Nah, I'm over that. Why buy something just because it's new? That only makes for more waste.

My rocket pants already do everything I need.

Awesome! With Awesome Sauce Mode on!

Let's go back to 2050”.

“Thanks for hanging out with us, planet protectors.

Yeah, thanks!

For more information about anything you've heard today, check out the link in the description.

Time to go home. Returning in 3, 2, 1.”

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<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/new-rocket-pants/id1737275208?i=1000650458297&r=0.28>

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