

## **Recycle Ann Arbor 2008 Earth Day Essay Contest – Runner Up Winner**

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### **How recycling can help stop global warming**

I myself and other kids are concerned about global warming. Here are some of the reasons why we kids are concerned about global warming. We are concerned because we want a nice and good future. We are also concerned for the polar bears whose ice caps are melting.

Recycling can help stop global warming. One way recycling paper can help stop global warming is so that fewer trees are cut down. Trees take in carbon dioxide and reuse it to make air. When trees take in the carbon dioxide and make it into air it helps because less carbon dioxide goes into the ozone layer. Also when we recycle paper then we do not have to keep cutting down more and more trees. A cord of wood makes nearly ninety thousand sheets of paper or 2,700 copies of a thirty five page newspaper, according to ecology.com. Every year we go through thousands of cords of wood to make paper in Michigan.

Also recycling water bottles can help stop global warming. Michigan alone through twenty nine billion water bottles a year. "Manufacturers use seventeen million barrels of crude oil, which is enough to keep a million cars running for one year," according to kids.nationalgeographic.com. Also according to kids.nationalgeographic.com "Recycling one plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a sixty watt bulb for six hours." When we recycle a plastic bottle it is not only used to make another bottle, but it can also used to make fleece jackets and vests. Metal cans should also be recycled. You know when you recycle a can, you can purchase that same can four times that year.

Another major part of global warming is garbage and landfills. "An average American throws out 1,460 pounds of trash a year," says www.michigan.gov. Michigan alone throws away 14,704,860,120 pounds of trash a year. In the United States we throw away 187 billion pounds of trash per year. When we recycle then fewer things go into landfills. When few things go into landfills the less gas that is produced which contributes to global warming.

One type of recycling that people might not think about is composting. When we compost it makes it so not as much food goes into the landfills. Also when we compost it reuses the food and the food is used to make dirt. We can also use to help us plant flowers and we can also use the dirt to plant and help our other gardens.

We kids can help reduce global warming in several ways. One way would be to not take as much food if we know that we cannot eat all of it, so all of the extra food will not go into landfills. Two, we can take refillable plastic bottles to sports and other activities instead of plastic water bottles that we would just throw away after. Three, if we are writing a paper in a class write on both sides of the paper not just one side. By doing these little things it will help stop global warming.