

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

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Recycling and Global Warming

One of the biggest issues in the world today is global warming. Global warming affects all parts of the world, not just our county. If we don't take steps to control it now, future generations might have more problems than we do today. One of the best and easiest ways to start making a difference is to recycle. Recycle can have very beneficial results that will help reduce the amount of global warming. Some of these results can include fewer trees being cut down, saving energy by using recycled manufactured products, and lowering the demand for fossil fuels. I believe that, if we all contribute to the recycling effort, we can reduce the amount of global warming.

If you recycle paper, it will result in fewer cut down trees. Trees are mostly made of carbon. When forests are burned and cut down, the carbon in the trees is transformed into carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is an important greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases help the earth to maintain the perfect temperature for life. If there are too many of greenhouse however, global warming can happen. This occurs because more heat is radiated towards the earth's surface. So if fewer trees are burned and cut down, there will be fewer greenhouse gasses.

If you recycle manufactured products, you save a lot of energy. If you recycle plastic, such as bottles, you save about seventy percent energy. If you recycle paper, such as paper bags, you save about forty percent energy. If there is less energy being used to make products, there will be fewer greenhouse gasses.

Finally, if we recycle more, there will be less demand for burning fossil fuels. We use fossil fuels for power and energy, such as powering our cars. Gasoline, coal, and natural gasses are all fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide is released into the air when fossil fuels are burned. There will be fewer pollutants and greenhouse gasses from entering the air if there is less demand for burning fossil fuels.

If everyone contributes to these steps, global warming may slow down. Everyone can take very simple steps to recycle paper, which would result in fewer cut and burned trees. If you see pieces of old newspaper flying around in the wind, take them home and put them in your recycling bin. Taking plastic, glass, and aluminum products to the recycle center or returning beverage containers to the grocery store would help in the reuse of manufactured products.

Less energy would be needed to make more of these products. By recycling these items, we will prevent garbage from going into landfills. Landfills produce methane, which is another greenhouse gas. Finally, people could drive their cars less, and maybe ride a bike or take a bus, which conserves gas and fossil fuels. This would result in fewer pollutants and greenhouse gasses from entering the air. Do you want to save the world? Recycle! And you may be saving the world from all kinds of trouble.