

Recycle Ann Arbor 2007 Earth Day Essay Contest – Runner-Up Winner

WHY RECYCLING IS IMPORTANT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

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Recycling is important to America's future for several reasons. The most important reason is that recycling helps America save raw materials. By raw materials I mean such things as trees, ore to make metal, oil, and other energy sources. Some raw materials have limited supplies such as ores and oil. Other raw materials are renewable, but even renewable resources have limits to how fast they renew. Recycling lets factories reuse raw materials that have been already used so that we don't waste. If we don't recycle, America's raw materials will get scarcer and scarcer. This is important because one day we might not have anymore raw materials that we need to make our products.

Recycling is important for America's future because recycling helps stop air and water pollution. Recycling saves the raw materials from getting into the air or water as waste. Clean air and water help people not get sick as much, so less people will die from sickness, and people will live healthier lives.

Recycling can help the world live and survive better because fewer things would become extinct. If one thing becomes extinct, another depends on it, so the life cycle slowly disappears until nothing is left – not even humans. Everything depends on everything else.

If people don't start recycling, America's future would probably be a big country with nothing on it except all kinds of useless garbage. So, I think that if most people in America recycle or even reuse, America could soon be a very clean and resourceful country.

Because my family more often reuses things, we don't have so much trash. We reuse our old junk because it's cheaper than buying new things. For example, we use a microwaveable cover which can be made out of a simple plastic circular cover that you can get from cake carriers. We also use any kinds of big hollow cans and bottles for bird feeders and bird houses. Every time I go to a Michigan football game, people leave a lot of useful plastic cups at the end of the game. Since I don't like to waste, I collect many plastic cups from the football stadium and wash them. So now we have lots of reusable cups.

I learned a valuable recycling lesson from my own backyard! One day my mom and I were trying to build a vegetable garden in the backyard. We wanted to grow tomatoes, carrots, and lettuce. I love to put tomatoes and lettuce in my hamburgers and crunch on carrots. To grow these, we needed good soil, and my mom and I bought good soil. I thought buying good soil is expensive than buying vegetables. After that, I learned how to make good soil by recycling my left over food into compost instead of putting all my left over food and wasting down the garbage disposal, which can lead to water pollution. Once I learned how to compost, I made a compost bin by attaching wooden palates that we had saved from when our supplies for finishing our basement came. I put the palates together with a few nails and a hammer. Now I compost all of my food waste into my new compost bin. With this compost, I can now grow all kinds of great vegetables. I do not always enjoy

taking the little leftover container to the big compost bin in the backyard. But, I am trying to think of yummy tomatoes and carrots whenever I get lazy.

All this information brings me to a final conclusion. The main reason why recycling is important to America's future is because millions and millions of people live in this country. So to keep this country a home to millions and millions of people, we should all recycle or reuse everything we can. America's future is in everybody's control, so if we start recycling and reusing, America will have a bright future that shines in everyone!