

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

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Back in 1977, were you wondering what were they thinking to reuse old and dirty paper, plastic, glass, and many other things that someone else had used? Although I wasn't alive then, I sure would have been thinking that. It would be like the first hockey goalie to ever wear a facemask. At the time, everyone made fun of him, but now he has revolutionized the game. At the time, recycling probably wasn't cool either. If we recycle more than we throw away, then we can save our planet in many different ways. Throwing away garbage fills our landfills and pollutes a lot. By throwing reusable or recyclable things away, more replacement items will have to be made. The energy used to make the replacements and the air pollution generated makes our ozone thinner every year. As the ozone gets thinner, global warming begins to happen. As global warming progresses, the Arctic and Antarctic poles shrink and shrink. When we recycle though, we are limiting the trash pollution into the air. The more we recycle the less trash pollution we have to worry about, because we won't have as much trash to pollute the air. That is one reason why it is important to recycle.

Another reason it is important to recycle is that it saves the amount of natural resources we have to use. Take trees for example, the more we recycle paper the fewer trees we have to cut down to make the paper. The more trees that are alive, the more oxygen they will produce, which take some pollution out of the air, creating a healthier environment for us to live in. That is an advantage to recycling paper. An advantage to recycling tin is that tin is made out of processed bauxite (a limited type of rock). If we recycle the tin, or bauxite, the less bauxite has to be used to create the tin. That way we will have tin products longer than we would have without recycling. That is an advantage of recycling tin. Each material has its own advantages to recycling, but one really important material to recycle is plastic. Plastic is important to recycle because it is non-biodegradable, or it is a material that won't decompose into nutrients over time like wood. All plastic does is pollute and kill any animal that swallows plastic, because they suffocate from it. Recycling is very important to our future in so many different ways. When we recycle we are just doing everybody on the planet a favor by saving a tree, or making bauxite last one year longer. The effects that could happen to us in the far or near future could be devastating if we never started or if we stopped recycling. Recycling is one of the most important ways to save our planet.

Recycling is very important to slow down the process of global warming. Global warming has an effect on everything we do and eat. If global warming melts the polar ice caps, penguins will probably go extinct, and that would mean that a big part of leopard seal's and orca whale's diets would be gone. With that much of the food chain gone, there would be a shortage of food that the orcas and seals would eat. Then from there, a break in the food chain would have a huge snowball effect which will eventually get down to having an effect on humans. That could happen a lot sooner than everyone thinks if we don't recycle, or if we stop recycling for some reason. So if you can, you should always recycle as much as possible.

Global warming also makes storms a lot worse. For example, it will make hurricanes worse, and they will happen more often. The worst case scenario of global warming is

bound to happen eventually no matter what, but how soon of how far from now depends on if we recycle and if we find clean burning alternative fuels that can be reused or recycled. That is why recycling is so important to not only America's future, but the whole world's future.