

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

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How Recycling Can Help Stop Global Warming

Every day tons of perfectly good things are thrown away when they could be recycled, every day people buy things that they know will be thrown away very soon, everyday people have the choice of recycling to help save earth, and everyday people choose not to care. Why?

It's not hard to recycle and reuse things. Actually, it's very simple.

If you threw one can into the Huron River and thought, whatever, no big deal, it's not going to hurt anything, you would be wrong. You see, a fish swimming by could suddenly poke its head in the can to get a good look and become stuck. The fish can't eat any more so it will starve and die. If everyone did the same thing, the river would be filled with litter and we would kill off all fish. And then fish wouldn't be alive to eat the algae and keep the water healthy.

If you recycled that can instead of carelessly tossing it in the water you could not only save fish, you would help to keep the environment clean. And a big bonus is that each time you recycle instead of throwing away, you use less energy because you reuse. That "can" will be remade into other cans, or pack bench, or another useful item. Sometimes artists use stuff from the recycling bins to make art. I saw a woman make necklaces out of cold cans once and there are rugs make out of tires. The more items that we recycle, the less land is used for dumps. The more green land and trees we have, cooler the temperature of the planet.

I told you it's very simple, and every time you save that fish, you help repair the environments, and every time you recycle that can help you slow global warming. If you don't know what global warming is, let me tell you. Global warming is caused by the emissions from cars, electricity, business, and cutting down trees. The heat from cars, and lights and business is trapped in the atmosphere. Because there are less trees, the earth has less shade and cannot cool itself down. The effects are big temperature changes on planet earth. If we recycle things so they can be reused as something else, instead of making new things. Less energy means less heat trapped and less global warming.

Since I'm concerned about the environment I do many things to help stop global warming. These are things that you do too. I donate money to different organizations that help with recycling, global warming, and wildlife. A couple of good ones are the Defenders of Wildlife and Earth Justice. I recycle every day by

Composting all the fruits and vegetables we eat, separating paper from trash, and redeeming bottles and cans. It's easy to recycle in Ann Arbor because the recycling trucks come every week to help up take away our garbage and recycling. We use our compost in our garden to help grow flowers and herbs. I also tell others about the organizations that I belong to, and give a monthly pledge amount to Defenders of Wildlife. I pick up trash whenever I see it in my neighborhood and I hope you do the same thing in your neighborhood.

Since we are humans, and we use the earth as our home, it is our responsibility to keep the earth safe. A good way to do that is to recycle. After all, we weren't the first ones on this planet, so it's not really ours. We have to share the earth with all the wonderful animals and plants that live here too. Remember it's never too late to recycle for our planet Earth and help stop global warming!