

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

Why Recycling is Important to America's Future

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Our daily life becomes more and more easy and comfortable. Modern technology helps us in many ways and some people couldn't live without it. But technology uses materials that damage the atmosphere and basically, the whole entire Earth. There is already a Global Warming and an atmosphere hole above Antarctica because of human activities. This is where recycling comes in. Recycling can help our environment a lot. Recycling prevents useful material resources from being wasted, and reduces energy usage. If we never recycle things, we are going to have to keep take more raw materials from nature, and if we keep on taking and taking in the end, in addition to ruining nature, we humans will be hurt too. And we will die out, because the land would not be suited place for human living anymore.

Some people take nature resources for granted. They don't see that there's no lifetime supply of natural resources. They would just throw away whatever they don't want into the garbage: a messed-up crumpled paper, a used can, the daily newspaper, and so on. They never think by doing this, they accelerate to damage the environment because everything we are using today, is from nature.

Sit still for one minute. Only in those sixty seconds, over one hundred acres of trees in the rainforest were just cut down. That is more than 70 football fields! Rainforests are home to two-thirds of all the living animals and plant species on the planet; help stabilize the world's climate; protect against flood and erosion; are "the world's largest pharmacy" because of the large amount of natural medicines discovered there. They also turn carbon dioxide into clean, fresh air, which helps us fight pollution. Losing rainforests means losing our environment, and lots of animals and plants would soon become extinct. If there were no more rainforests, human society would fail too. However, if everyone recycled their newspaper everyday, it would save 41,000 trees!

Recycling can help save lots of natural things. For example, if we recycled aluminum cans, then we don't have to disturb the environment by mining the raw material. By doing that, we also can reduce the pollution because we do not need to smelt to get aluminum. Recycling can also help repair all the damage that people do. If we don't recycle, places that people throw their garbage in, called landfills, will fill up and people will have to dig new ones. Then we will have room for new landfills if we ever need new ones. Picture America now, now picture it with polluted gray cloudy skies, dirty water with cans and dead fish in it, and muddy grounds with bottles and wrappers all around. That is what will happen eventually if people always litter and never recycle. Who would want to live a world like that?

So basically, our future depends on our environment. Recycling helps us in a lot of ways to save the Earth, and keep the environment suitable for living in, and keep America up and running. If people don't recycle, who knows what will happen to America? Nothing good, that's for sure.