



Reduce, Reuse, RECYCLE!

By Hannah DeBacker

We all take the earth for granted. Most kids don't understand that if we don't take care of our world, it (along with us) will perish. Trash is just one of the everyday things that is rotting the earth away. Landfills are filling up and we haven't found a widely usable solution to trash other than just throwing it away. But some of the waste in landfills can be reused by recycling. Objects like milk cartons, newspapers, cans and even batteries can be recycled. Actually, if every American family recycled 1 paper bag each week, we would recycle 1,000,000,000 pieces of paper in one year! Think how much Americans could recycle if all of us recycled all of our cans, newspapers, and paper bags for a year!! If I were president, one of the first things I would do in office would be to get Americans to recycle.

To do this, I would create a step-by-step plan. The first step would be to motivate Americans about recycling. When people have a great cause and are pumped up about it, they have a better time doing it and sometimes they even do a better job. Second, I would start a program for volunteer community service groups around the country. Those groups could go to their local landfills and collect recyclable materials to be recycled so that some land fill space could be cleared. Those items could be taken to a recycling center. Third I would break ground on building projects for new recycling centers so that every state has accommodations for their recycling needs. I could build those centers with eco-friendly materials and have them run partly on wind and solar energy. The recycling plants would also create new jobs. Next, I would supply every house (that doesn't already have them) with recycling bins so everyone would be encouraged and have the resources to recycle. I could also give a 50% discount on trash pickup every month that the house hold recycled. That would be a great incentive for families.

Finally, I would involve kids in my programs. I would get

kids recycling by adding a unit in recycling in the science curriculum, where they could learn about green house gasses and how we can reduce them. They could also learn about ways to reduce their water use in ways like turning off the water when you brush your teeth. If the children learned about conserving water and energy, and if they get excited about recycling then they will get their parents excited about saving the earth as well, and more American families will recycle.

All in all, recycling is really important. If I were president I would make special advances in renewable resource research so the earth can be helped in other ways. I hope President Obama will make a plan to save our world and that the United States will become a leader in preserving our planet. Maybe then other countries will follow our example and take some extensive measures as well. A lot of people in our country are realizing that our planet needs help. In fact, it's all over the news!!! I predict that 30 to 40 years from now, our planet will be almost completely green. **Happy recycling!**