

"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."- Author Unknown

Save the Earth by Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling

By: Brian Guo

I asked my four-year-old sister to put a piece of scrap paper into the recycle bin when I saw her throwing it into the garbage can. "Why?" she asked. I explained to her that trashed paper takes up space in landfills; but recycled paper can be converted into paper towel used in the bathroom! Almost 4 billion trees have been cut down around the world, just for paper! So every effort should be put on to recycle every piece of paper. Even the newspaper where you check if the Red Wings won can be made with your help. I would suggest using Wii games to encourage recycling. The game can simulate picking up paper and throwing it away into recycling bins. Hopefully, educational and entertaining programs can get people into the habit of recycling not just paper, but also cans, bottles, magazines etc. In addition, recycling bins should be installed in cities and neighborhoods to prevent littering of recyclable goods and for the option of recycling. Homeowners should set up a recycling container to recycle around the house and encourage children to participate in.

Have you ever reuse the plastic bag after you brought home groceries from a store? You could reuse it as a garbage bag or even a bag to carry your Xbox to your friend's house. Other things that can be reused include paper bags, twist ties, and various containers for storage. Reusing your products can also help the environment. For example, Reusing plastics can reduce emissions when we produce them. Ways to get people used to reusing include writing ideas on paper/plastic bags used by companies, TV commercials and encouraging advertisements via mail. Other benefits for reusing can even include saving money! Throwing away all of those plastic cups can result in you buying more! These days, buying things that you don't need is the LAST thing anyone would want to do. Overall, reusing things doesn't just help the environment, but also us alike.

We must reduce what we can because supply for everything is limited. Do you leave the water running while you brush your teeth? Well, you are actually wasting about five gallons of water if you leave the faucet on for two minutes. Since 97.2% of the water on Earth is salty, only 2.8% of the water remains fresh. However, most of this water is frozen in glaciers or polar ice caps. Therefore, reducing our water use is critical. Also, as most adults know, water bills are going up! So wasting water could be hurting our wallets too. Hey, I think saving the environment and the wallet isn't a bad idea. In addition to water, it is also very important to reduce energy usage. This is as simple as turning off the lights! Also, turning off electrical items (computers, TVs, radios etc.) can be a huge energy saver. In 2007, the average American household spent over \$5,000 on energy and gas costs. That's enough for a one-week trip to Antarctica! Clearly, now you can see how important reducing is to our civilization.

In conclusion, everyone can do something, but no one person can do everything to help the environment and us by reusing, reducing, and recycling. By incorporating all of these methods in our everyday lives, we can make the world a better place one step at a time.