

“If I were president, how would I get more Americans to recycle?”

Americans go Green

by Megan Seames

If I were the president I would make laws about recycling. I would require everyone in America to recycle everything possible. In order to get the American people to do this I would give some incentives such as:

For school age children I would design a competition that whatever school collects and recycles the most would win a prize. This competition would be a year long program and be held within each county. The prize could be gifts for the school kids and money back to the school to spend on supplies.

Starting in first grade I would start an education program about recycling and going green. This program would have things such as a field trip to a recycling center, computer programs, going into the community and picking up recyclables and trash.

I would develop games for the Nintendo DS, Xbox, Wii and other popular gaming devices that one could play that promoted recycling. Such as a city that was in bad shape and your job was to go in and clean it up by picking up trash, recycling and developing products with these items. The more you do the more points you get. In addition your city would continue to grow. You win when the city is cleaned up and livable.

For college age students I would start a new program in several universities that would promote students to go into recycling. They could develop new systems for recycling, new machines for sorting, new products from recycled materials, etc.

I think it is very important that we as a country develop as many products as possible out of recycled materials. We will need to do a lot of research and testing in order to do this.

I would do a nation-wide advertising campaign that would include billboards, commercials, posters, magazine and newspaper ads all promoting recycling. These advertisements would contain ideas such as: “If you recycle your Sunday paper every week you can keep four trees alive per year and increase oxygen. If you cut one 20 mile car trip each week you would prevent more than 1,200 lbs of green house gas from being admitted and adding to global warming. recycle a six pack of aluminum cans every week [and] you will save enough energy to power a television for 936 hours. By cutting 5 minutes from your daily shower, you will save up to 9,000 gallons of water.” (source: Environmental Defense Fund, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Recycling Coalition.)

I would make it more convenient by having recyclables picked up at everyone’s house for free. Now we have some cans and bottles that you get money back for; I would have all glass, plastic and aluminum containers returnable where you get 10 cents back for each.

The more you recycle, and the recycled items you purchase or use you can take it as [a] write off on your taxes. This will give some adults incentive to recycle.

There are laws against littering in our country now. But as President I would make the laws stronger and harsher for doing this. I would educate the police and courts about how important it is to enforce littering violations. We could educate violators and make them do community service at a recycling center as a big part of their punishment.

As president I would make these ideas a reality in our world. I encourage everyone to try to recycle. We should pay attention to water use, electricity use, gas use, paper product use, and how to use less. If everyone makes an effort we can change the world for the better.