

Why Should I Recycle?

By: Vincent Jimenez

Why recycle? This has been a question that many people ask and don't accept the factual answer with all the statistics. So I am going to specifically write from my own perspective. I am twenty-two years old and just recently graduated from Hiram College.

Everyone hears that the resources are running low but many do not grasp the meaning of that. We as humans have taken from our surroundings and don't realize what that does for our future. The future will not end when we die, it continues with our children. Next time you are at a family get together look around at the younger generation and think about their future. Over consuming the resources we have available today will only shrink the resources available for the younger generations to come. As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. we look at youth and see innocence. Being older we have to help them survive and try to make their life easier than ours. I would want my children to have a better life than me and I think that is a goal everyone strives for.

I have been to different countries while experiencing a study abroad program. I have seen first-hand many children that struggle to survive because they have a limited amount of resources. They must undertake this daily struggle to get through each and every day. It is sad to see the children go through such hardships when they had

no say in the circumstances they have been born into. Those countries are an extreme vision of the future, but a middle ground between the way we live now and the poverty stricken children of other countries is what our future generations are going to have to deal with. They are going to have to endeavor many hardships to live, not because of their choices, but because of ours. I will not stand by and let someone that I love and care for suffer because of a problem that I helped create.

You do not have to go all-out and recycle everything in your house, but what you can do is start out with recycling the little things. Any little change is a step in the right direction. In place of buying plastic water bottles buy a reusable water bottle that can provide use for years. Another slight change that can be made is rather than using disposable cups for coffee and other hot drinks, buy a reusable coffee mug so that coffee shops can fill that up with your drink instead. Slowly reduce waste and increase your recycling ability until you feel you have reached your limits.

Some people believe that one person is not going to affect the future. That may be true that one person alone cannot stop the pollution in the world, but if every person takes the initiative to make a small change in their life to buy a reusable water bottle or coffee mug or to recycle the plastic or aluminum cans they use every day it will make a difference. So start today and be an example for your friends and family to help those future children who cannot fight for themselves

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