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How You Can Help Preserve Our Planet

The EPA, or Environmental Protection Agency, focused on protecting the environment by enforcing laws written by Congress, has just set a new standard for allowed carbon dioxide emissions, something that hasn't been changed in over 40 years. This is one of the most dire problems currently, because we are close to damaging our world beyond repair.

This change will cost the industry around 1.5 billion dollars to incorporate, over the next 10 years. However, the benefits far outweigh the costs, with the new standard expecting to prevent thousands of deaths and asthma attacks, ultimately with a health benefit value of 13 to 33 billion dollars.

As we learned in the pollution unit of my Environmental Science class, Sulfur dioxide is a chemical compound mostly produced by burning coal. It has many negative effects, including acid rain, asthma, and other breathing problems. The major sources of sulfur dioxide, the power plants, will have to find a way to lower their emissions.

I believe that this is a great step forward by the government, because right now pollution is one of the biggest issues of the modern world. The EPA has taken a step forward in addressing this problem, but this is still the beginning of solving our environmental issues.

As you can see, it cost \$1.5 billion to incorporate this new standard, but with benefits of \$13 to \$33 billion. Individually, we can also save money in the form of health and living costs, and at the same time drastically help the environment. One way to help stop global warming is to reduce, reuse, and recycle. First, reduce your waste by not buying excessive products. Reuse what you already have, and if you must dispose of things, try to recycle as much as possible.

This may sound simple, but by just recycling half of your waste, you can save 2400 lbs of carbon dioxide annually. One of the biggest factors contributing to global warming is driving. Driving only when needed can help the environment, serve as a form of exercise, and also save money. Of course, driving is necessary, so be smart when you need to drive. Make sure you are getting the most out of every gallon. One simple way of doing this is to keep your tires properly inflated. This could improve efficiency by 3%. This adds up, and every gallon you save keeps 20 lbs of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and also saves you money. Lastly, make sure to get into the habit of saving water and electricity. When leaving a room, simply turn off any electrical appliance you don't need, and don't use hot water when it is not needed.

Following these steps can save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide annually, and are the best ways to save money and, most importantly, the environment.