

## **WHAT IS TO BE DONE TO SAVE THE EARTH**

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Our planet is in great danger. For the last one hundred years or so, the people have wasted and misused the natural resources of the earth. Several plans have been developed to stop the abuse of earth. Some of these plans I will discuss, many of which can be executed by anyone. Environmental problems have become so complex that many individual feel they can have no effect on them. Problems like oil spills, hazardous waste, loss of rain forests, endangered species, acid rain, the ozone layer, the municipal waste crisis can feel out our control. At the very least, these problems require group and corporate action or government intervention. However there are some things the individual can control. Our waste reduction and recycling activities can make a difference.

That's why so many communities began voluntary recycling programs. Your local waste management agency has information on how to properly dispose our garbage. A compost bin may be set up in your yard. Compost bins return plant and some food materials to the soil through decomposition so it can be used as natural soil additive, called compost. Keeping recycle bins in the kitchen may help to stop people from accidentally throwing into the trash an item that could have been recycled. Once these bins are full of recyclable materials they can be given to your local recycle center. Solar energy can help heat water and power home appliances. Solar energy is a great source of clean, non-polluting energy. The home is not the only place where people can pitch in and help the environment. Also outside our homes we can help save our environment. School playgrounds can use recyclable materials for play equipment and to make sure the playground is safe for children. The school and public libraries are great examples of reuse of materials. The reuse of books saves thousands of trees to prevent us from flashfloods and other calamity. People may also try to invest in electronic vehicles which do not pollute. The idea of a landfill is a great one but we need to make sure we segregate it.

We can help, over the last twenty to thirty years we have been trying everything in our power to conserve energy and natural resources. Many plans have developed as to what should be done all of which are very good ones. The problem with these plans is that not everyone contributes to the efforts to reduce pollution and waste, in fact most of the people I know believe recycling is a waste of time and they by themselves cannot make the difference. In some cases, I have found myself questioning my efforts. However, it is still important that we don't quit. If

only everyone in every home would decide to do their part and help to keep our air clean, our water unpolluted and our wild life safe. The earth is our home and we need to protect it.