

Earth Day Essay

Brooke [REDACTED]

In the spring and summer I love walking into the woods, sitting down, and just watching all of the diverse wildlife. The birds, the sky, the clouds, flowers, insects and other forest critters. I love reading outside on a sunny day, breathing in the fresh air, and listening to the birds chirp. I also love the plants. There are many beautiful flowers here. In the spring, I plant flowers outside my house with my grandmother. These are just some of the things I love about living in Vermont.

However, I am concerned about the wildlife and overall well being of Vermont. One of my concerns is logging. Logging on a smaller scale isn't necessarily bad, but when it's on a larger scale, that's when it becomes a problem. First of all, logging too much can hurt the wildlife in many ways. It lessens the amount of homes for animals that live in trees, or habitat loss. It also increases the risk of animals being harmed, because there are less places to hide. And finally, it also reduces the amount of food some animals have. Another one of my concerns is too much development. We are chopping down forests that could be many animal's habitats just to build a shopping mall. We are also creating too many asphalt roads. This is bad for multiple reasons, one of them being that asphalt is a major source of air pollution, especially in sunny and hot places. When asphalt is hit with extreme heat or sunlight, it releases toxic gasses such as sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOC), as well as volatile HAP organic compounds. Another problem with asphalt roads is that it does not absorb water very well. This causes run-off into rivers and lakes and with heavy rain, it can overwhelm drainage systems. solar panels and windmills are another one of my concerns for Vermont. Windmills may be the largest source of renewable energy in the USA, but this doesn't mean that they don't have their downsides. For one, if a bird or a bat crashes into one of the blades, they can be killed or seriously injured. Windmills also produce a lot of noise and are quite the eyesore. Solar panels take up a lot of space that could be an animal's habitat or land for growing crops.

My hopes for Vermont's future is less large-scale solar panels, instead of putting them in fields we could put them on houses, and wind energy on a smaller scale. I would also love more dirt roads instead of asphalt roads, and maybe some more bike trails. Finally, more control on the amount of building and logging in Vermont. We should have logging on a smaller scale so as to not hurt too much of our wildlife's habitat. As for building, instead of building big malls, we should focus on building homes for the growing population of homeless people in Vermont. Maybe then, after making these changes, generations after generations can continue to enjoy sitting and watching the birds, the sky, the clouds, flowers, insects and other forest critters of Vermont.