

Earth Day Essay

Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School



With Each Small Step

By Kalia 

For many years, Vermont has been living up to its name as The Green Mountain State after having been ranked first as greenest and most eco-friendly state in the US for multiple years in a row. Despite these accomplishments, we still have a lot of work to do in order to keep this state the cleanest and greenest, along with our planet, the Earth.

Young people make up around 25% of the world's population, and we have a long future ahead. We are the change and many youth are taking action for our future in multiple ways, from protests to lawsuits to starting clubs at their school. Everyone needs to begin to take part in making even more eco-friendly and sustainable choices to ensure a healthy future for many generations to come.

Almost 100% of Vermont's energy comes from renewable resources, but many states/countries don't use clean energy. Imagine if everyone used renewable, green, energy. The costs of energy would be lowered, along with reducing the future risk of climate change, and the emissions of greenhouse gasses. Approximately 40% of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions are from transportation, which plays a key role in whether or not our state stays clean and green. The Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan's transportation goals will help to ensure a healthy future by expectantly resulting in carbon dioxide emissions reduced by 38%, increased biking, walking, and public transportation trips by 100% by 2030, and gaining 80% electric vehicles by 2050. We all must help by taking part in order to make these goals reality to make a difference.

We need to begin to take action, for the climate, for people, for the future. Our decisions have a strong impact on our lives as well as the environment. When we decide to go to a plant based restaurant instead of a steakhouse, we are not only eating healthier, but making a difference environmentally, whereas when we choose to drive someplace that's five minutes away, it has a less than desirable outcome. If we had chosen to walk or bike, we could have been able to spend time outdoors, get exercise, and even though it was just a small shift, it would have a large impact in the long run.

If we start little with one action, our home, it begins to affect our town, our community, and soon those small actions spread to other places across the world, people we've never met and never will see. It's like a chain reaction, everything piles up, and when we make the right decisions that will impact us for the better. We can change the world with each step we take. Even the smallest change can make the biggest difference.

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