## Saving Our Planet Starts By Saving Our State

Vermont's environment brings in people from all around the world to experience and take in its natural beauty. There are so many forests and state parks to see here. My favorite is Taylor Park in Saint Albans because of the big trees, the different kinds of flowers, and the fountain. The fountain is special because it is recognized by the Smithsonian Institute as the best remaining kind of this fountain in the whole world. When you get the chance, come and visit this Vermont park.

I find Vermont's ecosystems very unique. Forest ecosystems are more than just trees. Trees are indeed on the top when it comes to forests, but the trees' interactions are what bring the ecosystem to life. Understanding how the organisms interact with their environment is a must in developing other ways to keep ecosystems protected and healthy. You can help also! You don't have to be a genius. You can help by cleaning up trash in forests or in towns or cities. Once, forests were viewed as large areas with endless trees. As our population grew we began to realize how important forest ecosystems were, other than for gathering wood. Trees purify our air, soil, water, and they also take away carbon dioxide from our air. That is why we need to care more about our environment.

Vermont is known for having a diverse population of animals. Some of those animals are endangered. You can help prevent this by spreading the news about them, or you could maybe make your home wildlife-friendly by maybe, adding birdfeeders. Just a little bit can help!

I love going on hikes with my family and exploring nature in Vermont. My favorite thing to do when I go on hikes is to look for animals. I find animals very fascinating to watch. But animals should just be left there to look at! They help with the environment. All animals have important roles in the ecosystem. The animals, insects, and even microorganisms play a role in the ecosystem. Vermont has so many animals and we need to keep it this way! Remember, just helping out a little bit can do something big.

Vermont's air is very clean and Vermont has very little pollution. We have a Clean Air Act. It helps the state limit the amount of pollution in the air. Vermont's number on a pollution map is very low. It makes people want to do many outdoor activities when the air we breathe in is clean. Maybe you would want to go hiking or biking and take in the beauty of this state.

In conclusion, I hope that this made you appreciate how great Vermont's environment is. Vermont's environment is taken care of amazingly by everyone who lives here. I am very lucky to live in this state because there is no place better than here. I hope you would take part in helping keep our state clean and safe. That is where we start when we want to help save our planet. Thank you for reading.

By: Ethan 5th Grade, St. Albans Town Educational Center Mrs. Carrie McAdoo - Teacher