

Mazey ██████ 5th grade-Laura Urquhart-Twin valley Elementary School

Do you think the environment is important? I do, I think the environment is very important and I know many ways to support that. Hopefully all my reasons will change your mind if you DON'T think Vermont's environment is important.

Three things I love most about Vermont's environment are the fresh air, beautiful scenery, and the seasons. I love the fresh air because it is so pleasant to breathe in. For example, if you've been inside for hours or in a car and you step outside you get a swish of fresh air and it feels great. In cities the air is so polluted. It smells of car fumes, cigarette smoke, and it's not pleasant to breathe, in my opinion. I like beautiful scenery like sunrises, sunsets, mountain scape; when you get to the top of a mountain after a hike; and most of all the morning right after a snow storm has stopped when no one is out, everything is so beautiful. I also love Vermont's seasons. My favorite season, or time of year, is late spring. I love late spring because it's warm out; you can wear short sleeves; it's not too hot but it's not too cold; and in COVID times you can finally be outside with people without freezing in 20-30 minutes! Those are the three things I love most about Vermont's environment.

What I most enjoy doing in Vermont that I can't do in city's or busy crowded places, is swim in clean fresh lake water. I love to swim. In the summer I will ask to go to the lake almost everyday. I'm very fortunate to have Lake Whitingham right across the street from me. We go out with my friends all the time on our boat and I have so much fun. That's what I most enjoy doing in Vermont, swimming in lakes.

Some things I think we should do to protect Vermont's environment are have more than one clean up day each year; not use as many materials that pollute; walk places more instead of driving; try to use paper or reusable containers instead of plastic; and much more! I think we should have at least 1 clean up day each month if not 2 or 3 so we can keep Vermont clean and healthy. Yes, it's hard to not use plastic but when you try it can be done. Everyday I have to bring a home packed lunch and I haven't put a plastic bag in my lunch in about 3 years! We should be trying to change people's mind about the environment. Many people think the environment is not that important but it is. We should post articles online advertising the environment, put up flyers, and do many other things to help people realize just how important Vermont's environment actually is. These are only some of the methods I think we could or should do to help protect our environment.

You can now see just how important Vermont's environment is, not just to me but to ALL Vermonter's. So, you should treat the environment like it's your best friend.