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English

**Environment Salvation, For Vermont's Mountains**

At mountain resorts there are many problems destroying our environment including gas, fueled trail, groomers, and snowmobiles, also man-made snow is using up millions of gallons of water right here in Vermont. I believe that having electric trail groomers and snowmobiles would benefit the consumption of fossil fuels. Also the problem of man-made snow threatening our natural water resources needs to be dealt with.

Man-made snow is using millions of gallons of water in just a few days to keep Vermonters skiing and snowboarding on the slopes. At the Stowe resort in Northern Vermont they are taking it a step further, “Snowmaking, in fact, is at the core of a half-billion dollar master plan beginning with the formation of a 116-million-gallon water storage area named Peregrine Lake and New England’s first and only fully automated snowmaking system on Spruce Peak.” (Evan, and Lisa Lynn, “Snowmaking: The Art Of Damage Control.”) This storage is either helping our natural water usage or redirecting water that should have gone into the rivers and lakes. This use of natural resources is a problem to Vermont. Although it is helping mountain resorts it is hurting the ecosystem in other places. This problem is ramping up from the effects of climate change, and making us use more and more water on snow-making.

At almost every resort here in Vermont they are using gas fueled trail groomers and snowmobiles. This is rapidly using up fossil fuels, when they should be used in other ways.

Many Vermonters have a commute to and from their houses, fueling their cars is already taking up plenty of gasoline. Electric cars would be a big step in helping us save non-renewable resources, but converting trail groomers and snowmobiles would be a smaller step to achieve that goal. PistenBully has recently introduced the first electric groomer, using this at more resorts could make a difference in usage of fossil fuels.

These problems aren't going to solve themselves, but thankfully there are solutions. For the electric trail groomers and snowmobiles the solution would be a fundraiser to save up money so resorts can pay to get new electric trail groomers and snowmobiles. The usage of water in man-made snow has no immediate and definite solution but something like redirecting rain water to a storage area, to pump the machines might help. There are many solutions to these problems but they just need to be started.

There are many things we can do to help the environment right here in Vermont. These are just some of the ideas that would benefit the environment and ecosystem. Using electric trail groomers and snowmobiles, also a coming solution of man-made snow benefits the environment. All that we need is a strong leader to take action in carrying through ideas to help the world. Take some time on Earth Day to clean up Vermont and help fundraise steps toward a beautiful Earth.

#### Works Cited

Evan, and Lisa Lynn. "Snowmaking: The Art Of Damage Control." *VT SKI RIDE*, 3 Mar. 2017, [vtskiandride.com/snowmaking-the-art-of-damage-control/](http://vtskiandride.com/snowmaking-the-art-of-damage-control/)