

# Earth Day

BY: AVERY [REDACTED]

Vermont Day School

On April 22nd each year, our planet celebrates Earth Day. Earth day is dedicated to picking up trash, meditating, using less waste, and doing anything we can to prevent climate change from getting any worse than it already is. This year for Earth Day, a goal of mine is trying to produce no waste, which means not using plastic or one-use items.

According to Wikipedia, our planet cuts down around 15 billion trees annually, and there are almost 3.1 trillion trees on our planet. It may seem like we will never reach the end of 3.1 trillion trees, but if we cut down 15 billion trees every year in 200 years, almost all trees will be gone.

There are many ways we can prevent climate change from reaching its peak, but one is cutting back on electricity, it's not that difficult; when you leave a room, shut the lights off. When you are not using the sink, turn the faucet off. If you are looking into purchasing a new car, maybe buy an electric vehicle. If you have the space and are willing to invest the money, build some solar panels. Of course, there are many more ways you can try to help the environment stay healthy, but I only listed a few.

Vermont has a very beautiful landscape, but in 20 years or so, it could start to go downhill. Vermont has a rural, cozy, home-like feeling, and with the right help, we can keep it that way. Vermont is slowly changing in front of our eyes. When we drive on the highway, I see so much trash on the side of the road. A few years back, I rarely saw trash, and when I traveled out of state, I thought it was so weird that there was trash everywhere. I recently drove back to Vermont from Florida, and honestly, it saddened me to see how much waste was everywhere. I saw: tires, entire trash bags, cups, napkins, boxes, etc. And it's not only that, the air wasn't clean, it had a musty smell to it that was most likely gas coming from big factories. It was terrible.

Last summer, I attended an outdoor camp during the summer so I could enjoy its woods. At these camps, we help the environment. We pick up trash when we see it, we have an abundance of solar panels, and so much more! I love helping our state; it gives me the satisfaction of knowing I contributed.

I believe that Earth Day means a lot to some people. It makes me happy to know that people are doing everything they can to make Vermont a beautiful place again.

Earth day has been celebrated in 192 countries since 1978. Earth Day is focused on helping our environment by picking up trash and more. On Earth Day, some people plant trees. At my recent school, every year, we planted one tree in a spot that one of the teachers had picked. The teacher would select two fourth graders to: dig a hole, put the tree in, cover up the hole with dirt, and take care of the tree. I encourage more schools to do this because if EVERY school in the world planted one tree, we would gain 5-10 million trees annually. In conclusion, we would help our planet a lot more if we put more effort into trying.