

The Green Mountain State

Written by: Ella [REDACTED]

Drip, drip goes the sap from the tree. Churn, churn goes the cheese at the factory. Welcome to Vermont.

Vermont is such a beautiful state, from its mountains to its trees. In my opinion, the best thing about Vermont is its gorgeous, lush nature. I especially enjoy the stunning and very colorful autumn leaves, and the crisp crunch of them beneath your feet. Vermont also has excellent mountains to go hiking on, like Mt. Philo, Mt. Mansfield, and Camels Hump. I also love that Vermont has 4 seasons. Cozy, snowy winters, bright, colorful leaves during fall, lush, blooming spring flowers, and hot, sunny summers. This is what I love about Vermont.

One way I enjoy Vermont is by going camping. When I was younger, we used to go to Button Bay State Park. I remember always bringing my bike because Button Bay has lots of space where I can just ride around safely on my own. But lately, we've been going to Mt. Philo State Park. I also enjoy going to Shelburne Sugarworks and getting strawberry or blueberry maple cheesecake ice cream. In fact, a few weekends ago, March 20, me and my dad went there and I got sugar on snow. (he got maple ice cream.) Another thing I love to do is go sledding! We love to go sledding at Mt. Philo, but you have to watch out not to hit a tree. Recently, we discovered a really fun new sledding hill in New Haven with no trees, and it's really wide and steep (which makes it more fun). During summer, I love going swimming. I really like going to swimming holes, even though I've only gone a few times. One time we went to Bartlett Falls, and we brought our 2 donut tubes that are really fun to float around on at swimming holes. Last, it's always fun to stop in at Dakin Farm and taste their delicious meat and cheese samples.

These are my concerns about Vermont's future. I am mostly concerned about Vermont's use of plastic, sudden changes of temperatures due to global warming, and the spread of cyanobacteria. First of all, I think we should be more aware of how much plastic we are using. We should

also start using eco-friendly alternatives, because that is a solution that is available to us! For example, we can use metal water bottles instead of single-use plastic ones, and reusable shopping bags instead of disposable ones! My other concern is global warming. Lately, global warming has been showing a lot. I have noticed lots of sudden temperature changes. One day it might be cold, and then hot, and then cold again, all due to global warming. I think that we should come together to form solutions for these types of things. That's why I created a small group of people who are interested in saving our world from these sorts of crises. Though, there is one solution that is right in front of us. Since one thing that causes global warming is too much carbon dioxide in the air, and cars give off carbon dioxide, the solution is obvious: We have been using cars and other motor vehicles much more often than usual, and that has been giving off too much carbon dioxide. We should start walking or biking anywhere less than a mile. There is a fun little saying I read, "less than a mile, bike in style!" Using our bike or walking will leave a smaller carbon footprint. This will make a big impact, and you will get more exercise! Another option is to take public transportation, or carpool. To finish it off, cyanobacteria, also known as blue green algae, has been more and more problematic in Lake Champlain. We need to look out for blue green algae blooms in the summer regularly after there being a few hot days in a row, when the temperature hits the 90s. A combination of warm temperatures, sunlight, and nutrient-rich waters can cause blue green algae to reproduce quickly. These are my concerns about Vermont, and a few suggested solutions. I hope people will start taking action and making a difference.

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To join The Green Club, or if you have any questions about it,

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