

Name: Mirabelle

School: Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes

Teachers: K. Smith and J. Marchessault

Grade: 5

## How We Can Save Vermont

By Mirabelle

Vermont is beautiful to me. Things that are beautiful should last a long time, and everyone should be able to enjoy them. To make that happen, we have to keep Vermont clean. Earth Day is a day once a year we come together and clean Vermont, but if we join together more often Vermont/Earth will be very clean. Trash and plastics are affecting Earth. Climate change is also affecting Earth, and animals are losing their homes.

One reason Earth and Vermont are not very clean is because every year, tremendous amounts of plastics are thrown/end up in the ocean or our Lake Champlain. Research says around 50% of plastics are single use! If we all try to eliminate single use plastics, our world would be much healthier.

Climate change is also affecting Earth, and not in a good way. One reason climate change is happening is because so many people are using gas cars. Polar bears and many other animals don't have as much to eat and their home is melting away because of the changes in our climate. If we stop climate change, Earth will be well again and animals will have their home back. Some ways to do this are walking and biking whenever possible, and using electric cars.

We should think twice before buying single use plastics and staying home on Earth Day watching television. On Earth Day we should help each other clean the Earth. My hope is that this essay encourages us to think about walking and biking instead of always driving. Taking care of the planet will make us want to spend time outside in the clean, fresh air and see all of the wonderful animals!

### Sources:

<https://plasticoceans.org/the-facts/#:~:text=We%20are%20producing%20over%20380,at%20least%20several%20hundred%20years.>