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10th Grade

Barneveld High School

The Earth is Too Good To “Waste”

Most people don't care about the world, and that's one of the reasons that climate and the world is important to me. I could go on and on about the world. It's one of my favorite topics. Even if I may not understand very well, I like to hear about climate and world topics. It gives me a feeling of comfort and safety. Nobody seems to care about the world and how it's changing quickly and affecting humans and animals. For example, animals are dying due to shortage of food caused by fires or droughts, garbage being taken into their bodies, and weather. For example, polar bears need it to be cold and to have icebergs. But due to climate change, the icebergs are melting, and they don't have much cold weather since global warming. An example in which it's affecting humans is by causing these wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. The reason that this is affecting us is by destroying homes, nature, and people. The world is important to me because it's the world, and it should be important to everyone. The world is coming to an end, and I don't want it to be the fault of our generation that it's ending. If there's a way, our generation can help and stop it, which we can in many different ways.

At Barneveld School we can make changes to have a cleaner energy plan that allows us to operate cleaner and more efficiently. For instance, at Barneveld School we could compost and separate food. This helps us become a cleaner and more efficient school because lowering the amounts of plastic and waste we throw away could lower the amount of greenhouse gasses. According to the USDA webpage “Why Should We Care about Food Waste in the United States,” food is the single largest category of material placed in municipal landfills, where it emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. “Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 14.1 percent of these emissions in 2017.” In the United States and Canada, less than percent of plastics is recycled. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), packaging makes up the largest percent of U.S. plastic waste. One-quarter of packaging reaching recycling facilities is contaminated and sent to the landfills, the EPA estimates.

One of the most affected places during climate change is the ocean because trash is dumped in, and multiple animals that intake the trash are unable to grow to their fullest. This is important because many of these ocean animals we eat, and if we don't stop the trash being dumped, that will lessen the oceanic population and most of ocean life will be contaminated. According to NOAA, “Each year, billions of pounds of trash and other pollutants enter the ocean. Where does this pollution come from? Where does it go? Some of the debris ends up on our beaches, washed in with the waves and tides. Some debris sinks, some is eaten by marine animals that mistake it for food, and some accumulates in ocean gyres.” This proves that a lot of trash falls into the ocean and animals eat it.

Another example of a way that the Barneveld school could make changes for a cleaner energy plan is to have fewer packaged food containers that get into the trash and try to lessen the amount of food we throw away. That way we could reduce the need for cleanups. That way we don't litter and harm the

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environment. Littering or dropping trash harms the environment because some of the trash is not degradable which means that it doesn't break down into smaller pieces of trash and becomes organic material. The trash most of the time is biodegradable which means that it can release methane (colorless and highly flammable greenhouse gas) and harm the world.

Another example in which the Barneveld School can help the environment is by planting more trees. Planting trees will help us have cleaner air and more fresh drinking water. According to the ONETREEPLANTED webpage "Why trees?" "Trees help cool the planet by sucking in and storing harmful greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide into their trunks, branches, and leaves — and releasing oxygen back into the atmosphere. In cities, trees can reduce ambient temperatures by up to 8° Celsius. With more than 50% of the world's population living in cities — a number expected to increase to 66% by the year 2050 — pollution and overheating are becoming a real threat." By incorporating this plan it can help younger audiences comprehend the importance of the world.

For example, recycling could be something taught to children for them to be able to understand that plastic is bad for the world and to have a good understanding of the world. According to Taylor and Francis Online (Exploring the effectiveness of picture books for teaching young children the concepts of environmental protection) "The children learned about different types of recovery and the recycling of reusable resources and the importance of recycling; children also understood how to reduce rubbish, and how to use less water, electricity, and paper, plus other eco-friendly behavior. Children saved resources through their own actions; for instance, children used less water when washing their hands and brushing teeth and brought their own hankies to school. Moreover, children also used less drawing paper and turned off lights and televisions without being reminded to save energy." This shows that children have a very good memory, and they are fast learners.

Another example in which this plan can help younger audiences is by teaching them the importance of compost and how to separate garbage. This is good for children because they learn by sight and surroundings in their homes, so if kids see adults or anybody doing something good for the world, it will help them feel motivated to copy your examples. This helps children learn how to be tidy and see how it benefits the world. Teaching children about the importance of the world can be beneficial because then they can grow up with the thought of helping and making a change. But yet some people choose to ignore it and let the problem worsen. I want to help. I know our generation can help stop climate change and help future generations. I want to help others learn the importance of climate change and energy. I want people to understand that we only have one planet and we need to take action. I want people to know that animals are probably the most harmed in these sudden changes in climate. Most people don't care about the world. And they should.