

Do Your Part, Conserve Energy!

By, Jessica Dubuque

We as humans are using energy like we have an everlasting supply. The truth is that we don't, so people need to start conserving it. Energy is made from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are a nonrenewable resource, and once we use them all up, they will be gone. There are many ways to save energy. Three important ways are conserving it at home, in transportation, and recycling. People should get other people excited about saving energy by telling friends and family about it. It would be good to have a lot of people informed about it. We should do our part and save energy.

One place we use a lot of energy is in our homes. There are many simple ways that we could save a lot of energy and one way is on heating and cooling our homes. Use a timed thermostat so that the heating and cooling will turn off or decrease when no one is home. You could also try setting your thermostat a degree above or below your usual setting when you are at home to save energy. There are easy ways to save electricity too. In addition to using energy efficient light bulbs and remembering to turn off lights when you leave a room, opening shades to avoid using lights at all during sunny days will also save electricity. Most people may not know that leaving cell phone or other charges plugged in when not actually charging something still uses electricity. Unplugging the chargers when not in use will save electricity. Two other ways to save electricity are to remember to turn off computers and monitors when not in use, and hanging clothes on a line to dry instead of using a clothes dryer. It would be nice if more people tried to save energy at their houses.

Transportation is another area in which we use a lot of energy. One way of saving energy is by using public transportation if it is available. Buses and trains still use energy, but since they carry many people at once, they use a lot less than if everyone is using their own cars. Other ways to save energy on transportation are by riding your bike or walking to places that are close enough instead of driving. You could also carpool. A lot of people today drive vehicles that use a lot of gas. Another way to save energy is by driving Hybrid cars which get much better gas mileage. Try to save energy whenever possible through transportation.

People save energy by recycling and may not know it. Often less fossil fuels are used to make items from recycled materials than to make new ones. There are many items that should be recycled such as glass, aluminum, plastic, paper and cardboard. Plastic bags are made of oil. If they were recycled, we could save oil. We could save energy at the same time because they would have less new plastic to make. Hand-me-downs are another great way to conserve energy through recycling. It takes energy to make new clothes, so the fewer clothes they have to make the better. People can also start a compost pile in their backyard. Recycling isn't very hard, and more people should do their part.

When you think about it, conserving energy isn't that hard. At home remember to turn off things that are not being used. Try riding your bicycle to school or carpool with neighbors. Also, if you have an older siblings or cousins wear their hand-me-downs. Saving energy can be fun too. Get some friends together and throw a party. Play some games that will teach them about recycling. If energy isn't conserved we will run out, so help out, and do your part.