

Reagan Driscoll
6th Grade
OLGC
Mrs. Ferris

Earth Day 2024
Senator Andrew J. Lanza
“Ways we can make every day Earth Day”

It's really important to help and care for our Earth. There are many ways to do this. We can pick up trash, recycle, save fuel, take care of plants, and much more. We need the earth to survive, so we must treat it with respect.

Fortunately, people help the Earth in many ways. There are many groups and initiatives that plant trees and care for them. Some people participate in beach and park clean-ups, while others create recycling centers or bins. Some people have their own original ways to help the environment.

The problem we are starting to encounter is that much of this work is done on Earth Day. While it is true that April 22 is a special day set aside to care for the Earth, it's not enough for people just to help on that day alone. Earth Day is just once a year.

One may say that a logical solution to this uprising issue is just to extend Earth Day into Earth Week, and add more days dedicated to helping the earth. However, this could result in the opposite of the desired effect. Instead of people doing more things to help the Earth, they may celebrate our planet less, become disinterested, and stop caring.

Instead, we should encourage people to do as much as they can as often as possible. We should not give them certain specific times for celebrating the Earth and potentially limit this activity to these moments. We should help people realize the true benefits of helping the planet. The mayor of each city should hold meetings where citizens gather to brainstorm different ways to help the Earth.

We should also make environmental work fun and appealing. Asking kids or even adults to pick up trash each week may sound dull and boring. Instead, we should set specific goals through exciting projects. For example, my Girl Scout troop is currently working on a recycling project. We are collecting water bottle caps and other plastics, which will be melted down and made into a buddy bench to be placed in our schoolyard. A buddy bench is a seat on a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to or to play with. This project both helps to save the Earth, and benefits our school community. When we told the younger grades of our school about the project, they were ecstatic. The students have made it their goal to help us collect these caps. If we did not have an end goal that we were working to, the kids would be less excited about helping the planet. It would probably be very hard to collect all the caps we need. If we try more projects like this and motivate children more, they are more likely to help. These students may even continue to get more involved in similar projects like these further on in life as adults.

Asking citizens for ideas and using them would benefit the planet significantly. When citizens propose ideas they will be more dedicated to the causes that they originated. I know I would be more excited to help in a project that me, my friends, or my family thought of, rather than one I was obliged to do. If someone presented an idea of a project to help the Earth that was approved, they would spread the news and get neighbors, friends and family to help.

It is also important to make sure people fully comprehend the projects and initiatives they are participating in. If you detail the project plan, the cause, and the end benefit of the efforts, participants will be more excited and more dedicated to helping the Earth this way. You may even motivate them to get more participants.

However, millions of major projects are not necessary to save the Earth. Simple things play a huge role too. Just starting a compost bin at home, recycling at home work or school, walking or riding a bicycle instead of taking a car, and many other changes can make a huge difference. In 2023, there were approximately 335,000,000 people living in the United States. Only 32% of these people recycled. We should try to increase these numbers. The planet would benefit significantly from more of those people simply putting their plastics into a bin to recycle.

Things that we do help the environment benefit much more than just the earth. For example, a recycling project helps the environment, but also

may result in a new product to sell or have. Our Girl Scouts project benefits our school and creates a bench for the schoolyard. If someone walks or bikes to reduce a carbon footprint, they will also get exercise, fresh air, and health benefits. If a factory decides to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide they are emitting by having more products made manually by their employees, they will increase the skill of their workforce.

In conclusion, everybody helps in their own ways. Some may participate in projects, while others may carpool or walk to reduce fuel burn. Some people may create a compost bin, some may plant a garden, and others may have a recycling bin at home or think of other ways to creatively help the planet. The mayor should hold meetings where citizens offer ideas. The government should always make sure citizens are well informed and committed to their own environmental plans. They should encourage citizens to do little things at home. These are just a few of the many ways we can make each and every day an Earth Day.