



The Daily Gleaner

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Why Does Green Matter?

This week's special edition Green Matters column is an excerpt from the winning essay in the Middle School category in the Green Matters Essay Contest. It was written by Alyshia Berg a Grade 8 student from George Street Middle School. Congratulations to Alyshia and all the other winners! You can read their essays at online at www.greenmattersfredericton.com.

When you look back on our world and the advancements in technology that we've made, the results are outstanding! We've gone from horse drawn carriages to sleek and shiny SUV's. From reading books to surfing the net. Oil lamps and fires have been replaced by electricity and CFL's. Of course with all of these new advancements we've also brought pollution and global warming. Many people are not educated enough on the dangers of modern living, which is leading us to potential disaster. Now I'm sure you've heard it before but being green is a matter of choosing wisely for our planet and the future. Think of your children, grandchildren, and of course, the animals. Do you want them to live on a clean earth with a minimum of pollutants? Or the alternative that we face, a toxic, chemical induced environment which poses a health hazard to us all. If you picked option number one then it's up to all of us to make a difference. There are many little things that we can do to improve the quality of our air, earth, water and ozone layer; are you willing to be part of the green earth movement?

Did you know that seventy five percent of electricity used to power our home electronics is consumed while the appliances are turned off? You could start by unplugging your small appliances while not in use. You'll even save a few bucks on your energy bill, not to mention the first small change you will contribute to making the world a better place. It's hard to go totally green all at once, but you can make minimal changes and start on the right path. As a family we recycle paper, plastic, tin, bottles and glass, turn off our appliances, try to walk if we can, don't let our car idle and use CFL bulbs wherever we can. We know we are taking a step in the right direction and there is still more that we could do. But I think that if everyone did just one thing every week there would be a noticeable change; just think how we could change the world!

So, why is being green important? There are many reasons I could give to prove that we must do all we can to protect our planet. Contributing in some way is something that everyone can do, young or old. You can make the positive decision to be green and feel good about helping our earth. I for one, do my own things that I'm proud of to be green and to accomplish my planet friendly goals. I have a recycling bin in my room for all my scrap paper, I turn my heat down when I can, I walk places that are near and I have chosen to become a vegetarian, which cuts down on transportation pollution. These are all things that I do in addition to our family goals, and I'm only fourteen.

I think that the parents and teachers of this era should make it a priority to get children excited about green matters and loving the planet. Because we spend a good portion of the day at school to learn, why

not learn more about being green? After all, it's our future. If every child started having green goals from a young age, it would become a habit that carries on for generations and we could reverse some of the damage we've already done.

When I think ahead in my life, I like to picture myself walking this planet on clean soil and breathing clean air. I'm committed to this because I care and green matters not only to save the planet but also to save us. Being green should bring us together with the environment and each other. We need to all stay committed in this together, and never forget that many hands make light work. So when I take another step in the direction of a green planet I hope you follow me.