

East Grand Rapids Student

Current Issues

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Save your money and your world

The environment is a common issue in America and the rest of the world. You often hear about the environment in the news and how it is in danger. There are many things however, that we as Americans can do to continue to help the health of the environment. These corrections and changes in behavior will not hinder the development of the economic business practices and consumer awareness.

Common practices you can do at home to help the environment are many. Preventing energy leaks is one thing you can do to help the environment. 50% of your energy bill is heating and cooling alone (Heat & Cool Efficiently). Insulating your home will keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Another way to save energy is to replace your single-paned windows with double pane windows that will keep your home isolated.

Another well known way to save energy is by turning off your electronic devices. However, to take another big step is unplugging your devices. This will save even more energy as some devices still use a small amount of energy even while off. Switching over to compact fluorescent light bulbs or LED bulbs can also help. The California Energy Commission reports that lighting can make up to 25% of the average home's electricity consumption (California Energy Flow). Investing in solar energy is expensive but is very beneficial to large businesses.

You can do more to help the environment other than just saving energy. Compost is one good way. By returning organic waste to the soil instead of filling the city dump you reduce the space of landfills. Around 18 percent of the waste an average family in the U.S. produces comes from the yard and garden (21 Practical Ways to Help the Environment). Water is also another resource, which if taken care of properly, can really help the environment. Fixing leaks in any location in or outside the home can help the environment. Switching to a low-flow toilet can also reduce the amount of water used. The U.S Government's Environmental Protection Agency says that 41% of our indoor water used in the home goes toward flushing the toilet and 33% goes to bathing (WaterSense Labeled Toilets).

These corrections and changes in behavior of the individual will not hinder the development of the economic business practices and will even improve consumer awareness. This will also improve consumer awareness as the trend of helping the environment grows. If caring for the environment is a mainstream practice then more businesses will improve their public opinion by following the trends.

Improving the environment takes a lot of people to make a large scale difference. But if people really put the work in, results would be very noticeable. These small changes will not even affect the way our economy is or how businesses operate directly. If we change the mind state of the individual you can eventually change the mind state of a country.

#### Works Consulted

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