

Part I- Scratching The Surface

We've all heard the saying "Every day is Earth Day". It's been reiterated countless times on April 22, every year. We have a celebration, we wear green, the whole thing. But I feel so much stronger about Earth Day. The actions we have taken to preserve and protect our Earth are only beginning to scratch the surface of our capabilities. We have the entire human population, and most of them are willing to make moves in the right direction. But everyone has to know. For every tree planted, there is a soda can in the woods. For every soda can picked out of the woods, there is a new plastic bag in the ocean. Or worse, in a turtle's throat. So we need to start now.

Part II- A Soda Can In The Woods

First off, I have a story. It is a true story, and it happened not too long ago. It was a pleasantly warm day out, and I was feeling adventurous. I wanted to go into the woods and build a lean-to. I wanted to find edible greens, and make a fishing rod. The first problem was that I lived in the city. Not the dense, urban, city, but a neighborhood at the top of the city. Luckily for me, the park that was the epicenter of my social life had a small forest behind it. I went in, and was greeted by a smattering of bird chirps and songs, small flowers beginning to bloom, and the trees blowing in the gentle breeze. I quickly strayed from the path, and found a tree perfect for a lean to. I stopped and rested on the tree. I looked around for a second, and something struck me. An empty soda bottle lay strewn across the path. I looked closer. Little things started popping out to me everywhere. A bottle cap here, a plastic bag there. And right there, at that moment, I felt very depressed. I was sad that an otherwise nice forest was blemished with the waste of the cause of all of the world's problems: Humans.

Part III- Attempts At Redemption

Over the course of known history, climate change and pollution have only been legitimately recognized as real threats in the last 50 years. Some pitiful and failed attempts have been made, and some causes have been more successful, but overall there has not been a real shot at saving the planet. We tried to "save the whales", but we barely made a dent in the colossal deficit created by industrial, commercial, and traditional whaling. Skin cancer in Australia caused by the hole in the ozone layer is the third leading cancerous cause of death after lung and breast cancer. So where does this leave us? What are we going to do? There are many questions

being asked, and the pitiful answers we get leave us with more questions than when we started. So we need to answer our own questions.

Part IV- So Where Does This Leave Us?

It leaves us with a problem, and several solutions, all of which require a massive amount of dedication, work, and ingenuity. We could plant a large quantity of trees, but that needs money. So we need rich people to fund it, but can't get it. So we turn to the other cause of all of life's problems: The Internet. We fall into a cycle of we need <item for solution (x)>, but we need <thing to help that solution (y)>, so we ask <people with (y) (z)>, but we don't get it, and then we're back at the beginning.

Part V- What Are We Going To Do?

We are going to try our hardest, but we need to actually have an idea. An idea that would take the world by storm, win the support and endorsement of world leaders, and put the human workforce to, well, work. That idea is waiting to be found. Maybe you have it. Maybe someone you know has it. Maybe it is at the tips of your fingers, waiting to be unleashed. So we need a way to spread the word, so to speak. That's where the solution of a significant portion of the world's problems makes another appearance: The Internet.

Part VI- The Internet

It's very easy to make your voice heard in the contemporary world. A few taps, a click of a button, a swipe or two. And then your idea, opinion, video, photo, complaint, praise, joke, comment, or insult is out there, waiting to be seen. It's almost too easy. And the amazing quality of anonymity is a huge factor, because when you say something, no one knows it's you in certain scenarios. So the humans obviously take advantage of it. We use it for everything. So we can use it to advertise our great idea, right? Wrong. Because all the junk, garbage, and trash that is out there on the internet blocks out our idea. Instead of your amazing thought, someone sees another junk video of a cat with human properties. So the only solution is to actually put the idea in motion. Go out and plant a tree. Ride a bike or walk instead of driving to get to school or your office. And if it is far away, ride a bus or subway to be more efficient. Which leads me to my next point, which is....

Part VII- What We Can Do

We can bike. Using a bicycle is infinitely more convenient, efficient, and “green-minded”, for lack of a better word. It is cheaper (bikers don’t pay for gas), more reliable (bikers don’t lift their hood to fix the gears), and generally more economically efficient. When you can’t bike, don’t drive. Carpool when possible. Use public transportation, which allows more people to ride in the same vessel quicker. Use paper straws, in paper cups when possible. Encourage people to do the same. Pick up trash on the beach. In the woods.

Part VIII- The Future

We cannot predict the future. We can’t use ESP to find out exactly what is going to happen before it happens. But we have a rough idea of what life will be like 50 years from now. We might have robots. We might be robots. But unless we begin to “save the planet” now, we are going to break procrastination records everywhere. We will put it off another 5 years, another 10 years. And then it will never happen at all. Because the garbage we leave behind today will ruin the lives of our children. Of our children and grandchildren. And that is not how you want to leave the Earth.

So right now, do all you can to make the world a better place. Because

Every day is Earth Day.