

# Ways We Can Make Everyday Earth Day Essay

-Avery Ringuette-

Recycling conserves energy, reduces pollution of the air and water, reduces greenhouse gases, and conserves natural resources. In this essay I will be talking about how to recycle, and the effects that it has on Earth. One way we can make every day Earth Day, is by reducing waste by recycling.

Recycling has many effects on Earth. In the book, *The Effects of Paper Recycling and its Environmental Impact*, by Iveta Cabalova, Frantisek Kacik, Anton Geffert and Danica Kacikova, it states, "Recycling has been thought to reduce the fibre swelling capability, and thus the flexibility of fibres" (Cabalova, Kacik, Geffert, Kacikova Par 8). In other words, the reduction of the fibre swelling capacity helps the flexibility of fibers to be stronger, increasing the strength properties of paper to be better, thus making the resistance to rupture when subjected to various stresses a much lesser situation to deal with, basically meaning that the paper will be stronger and more durable. The book also states, "The recycled paper is increasingly used not only for the products of short term consumption (newspaper, sanitary paper, packaging materials e.g.), but also on the production of the higher quality papers," (Cabalova, Kacik, Geffert, Kacikova Section 3. Paper ageing). This shows that when people recycle paper, it can be used for better purposes than before, but it depends on the quality of the recycled paper, meaning if the flexibility of the fibres is not strong enough, than the recycled and reused paper would not function as well as it could. Overall, recycling can make a big difference, for example paper, if you recycle paper it leads to strong fibres which can then be made to repurpose napkins, newspapers, packaging materials, and make them stronger than before.

Going on to the next topic, many things can be recycled for a better life on Earth, but not everything can. According to an article by Nick McCulloch, "Here is an overview of what can't be recycled curbside: / Greasy paper, such as oil-soaked paper plates and pizza boxes / Used paper towels, tissues, and diapers / Broken ceramics, light bulbs, and mirrors" (McCulloch Section 2). This means even though many things can be recyclables, this article shows an important side of recycling that shows materials cannot be recycled and if that happens, can have an opposite effect on Earth. Writer Nick McCulloch also

wrote, "For an item to be recyclable in your city (assuming your city accepts a particular material for collection and sorting), it's necessary for three key areas to align, namely: / Technology must exist to recycle the material / There must be a buyer / The economics must work for the processor" (McCulloch Section 3). Further explaining, not everything can be recycled as we read before, but in order for something to be recycled important things need to take place, we need people, or buyers to buy the recycled results, buyers are important because they "encourage manufacturing methods that limit resource use, and energy waste, by producing items from a reusable material". As you can see, there's a lot that goes into recycling to make Earth a better environment, but as always there's always something to counter it, like buyers, and non-recyclable materials.

To conclude, one way we can make Earth Day everyday is to make recycling a more common practice, some things can be recycled but most things cannot and it's important to know the difference in order to create a safe environment. Start recycling today and see what changes for the better or for the worse, recycling will help this planet one plastic bottle at a time.