

Recycling: A Way of Life

When I think of recycling, I think of my dad. I look up to my dad and I respect everything about him. He is my role model, and the person who has taught me the most about life. Within his many life lessons, recycling and conserving our natural resources had always ranked high. It is because of him and his influence in our home that I have found value in recycling and worked to make it a part of my lifestyle. When I think of recycling, the first thing that comes to my mind is the words that he has always told me. He says, "I do not recycle for me. I do it for you and your children." Although I never really gave his words too much thought, he is absolutely right. Recycling is important. It is necessary, it is what will keep our world beautiful and conserve resources and energy. It is because of these values and ideas that I have worked to get my friends recycling in their homes and also a big reason why I attended Bowling Green State University. The college and citizens put an abundance of time and energy into making recycling easy for everyone. The college has hundreds of recycling locations around campus and has really worked to teach students about the importance of recycling. I am glad that I attend a college that cares about the earth and recycling because recycling and conservation are important parts of my life.

I really became passionate about recycling when I started high school. I realized how important it was and how many people did not do it in my community. When I was in high school, I made flyers and posted them around my school. These flyers had facts about recycling, why it is important and had the dates of when the recycling company would make it's bi-monthly trip to our town. Also, every year when we had band camp for two weeks in the summer, my friend and I would stand by the door with bags and collect everyone's bottles to recycle. Each day we would have around two hundred bottles. Besides our obvious goal of recycling, we wanted everyone to know how important it is. As captain of my tennis team, I wanted my team to see how important recycling was so I would collect the new tennis ball cans that we used at every match and take them home to recycle. To encourage our youth group members, a close friend and I worked to get some recycling bins built at our church, and although we graduated before the project was finished it has been completed by our church youth group, and has been a benefit to our community. Another project that I have been involved with is ongoing and it started when my dad told me that his coworkers did not recycle office paper at work. We realized that locally there was not a place to recycle office paper. We came up with a plan that helped to reduce the waste of his company. My dad sent out emails to his coworkers telling them that we would start recycling office paper. He set up a location at work and collected boxes of office paper. He would bring these boxes to BG, or when I came home I would bring them back with me and recycle them at the college. Through our project we have been able to recycle thousands of sheets of paper. The most recent idea and project I have thought about involves my place of employment, Subway. We go through tons of card board boxes and we just through them in the dumpster. I started to take them home with me, but there were so many boxes there was not enough room at my house. My goal for this summer is to contact the general manager and the owner of the store and try and encourage them to getting a recycling dumpster.

Recycling to me is about conservation and future generations. Recycling is a lifestyle that I feel everyone should participate in. It is about getting creative and inspiring others to be passionate about a worthy cause. Recycling defines our future.