

The Importance of Youth Activism for Our Environment

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Activists of all ages have done so much to save our earth from destructive forces like carbon emissions and litter on the ground and in our oceans. Earth is calling for help, and our generation can save it. We can make a difference in the world, one step at a time.

Here are some things we can do:

Spread awareness. Learn about the problems we are facing and actions we all can take to reverse the trends. For example, remind people to use recycling bins for paper, plastics, and glass. Sometimes people aren't aware of what they can do or how big the problem is, but by learning more about it, you can teach others.

Activist (noun): Someone who takes a stand on an issue and participates in activities that raise awareness in citizens and lawmakers, with the goal of creating changes in our society.

You can volunteer. You could ask your local parks and recreation departments for ways to get involved, like picking up trash in public spaces or planting trees. When you volunteer you might meet new people who share your concern and want to help.

Most people might think that their actions don't matter, but they are wrong. There are a lot of things you can do on a day-to-day basis that will make a difference in our world. You can make a point of getting into earth-friendly habits like turning off the lights when you leave a room. This is important because it helps save energy. Walking, riding a bike, or taking public transport instead of traveling by low-occupancy cars helps too.

Together we can all make a difference. Young people have the power to make a big difference. Blaming others won't help, taking action will. We hope you join us in making planet earth the best it can be.



About the Authors

This essay was co-authored by members of The Roots and Shoots Club, a youth environmental activism club originally started by anthropologist, Jane Goodall. The Roycemore Middle School's Roots and Shoots Club members work on environmental projects at school and in their community to promote environmental awareness through art, writing, and videos. Roycemore Middle School is in Evanston, Illinois.