

ENVIRONMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

Generally, when we speak about the term Environment we refer to our surroundings. We can divide it in natural environment and in controlled which is staged by someone.



Natural Environment

The natural environment refers to all living and non-living things occurring naturally on Earth. It is an environment in which the most important role is the interaction of living things and conditions without any influence by the human hand.

It can be distinguished in the following categories:

1) **Ecological units** that function as natural systems within their boundaries such as vegetation, atmosphere, microorganisms, soil, rocks, and natural phenomena.



2) **Natural resources and physical phenomena** that occur knowing no boundaries such as air, water, climate and also energy, magnetism, and radiation without the human intervention.

Sustainable Development

It is also known as intensive, efficient or continuous development which made its first appearance in the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 by the prime minister of Norway, Gro Harlem.



In other words, sustainable developments is a balance between the satisfactiOn of human needs with a better quality of human life and at the same time the preservation of all resources (natural, human, financial) both for present and future generations.

Recycling

Recycling is the process of used products and its conversion to new useable materials with the main goal to decrease the environmental pollution...



The term "**reduce, reuse, recycle**" is commonly used to propose simple actions people can take in order to protect the environment:



Reduce: The first think we need to take into consideration is to waste and pollute less.

Reuse: By reusing a product not only we minimize the waste being discarded but we extend it's 'life' by finding other possible use of it and also help ourselves from spending money.

Recycle: Many of the things we buy are recyclable. It means that after a specific process they can create new materials. Another way to help the environment is to buy products which are made from recyclable materials. And last but not least it's important to sort out our garbage.

Things you can recycle except the basic ones: batteries, computers, bras, cars, toothbrushes, scruffy old shoes, mattresses, light bulbs and medicine!!!

Environmental problems

As globalization continues local problems are turning to international issues. A few of the major problems



affecting the planet are:

Acid rain:

Known also as "acid precipitation" is a mixture of industrial pollutants plus wet and dry deposition that contain higher amounts of nitric and sulfuric acids.



Air pollution: It's the contamination of indoor and outdoor environment by solid particles and chemicals.



Global warming: Is the increase of the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere which can change the global climate.



Overpopulation: It refers to a condition where the density (in this case the number of human beings) exceeds the amount of resources that are available to humans for their survival.



Rainforest destruction: It refers to the clearing, cutting and removal of any rainforest part, also called deforestation.



Water pollution: It's the contamination of the water provoked by any harmful change.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that every year 24 million tons of leaves and grass are thrown away? Only leaves count the 75% of our solid waste in the fall.

...if we recycle one ton of office paper we can save 380 gallons of oil?

...the human population is expected to be tripled by the year f 2100?

...that plastic bottles start to compost after 700 years?

...one million coffee cups can be trashed up in a large city every day?



WAYS TO HELP THE PLANET!!!

Some good tips that everyone can follow in order to live healthier and save the planet are:

- 1) Turn off computers at night! You can save up to 40 watt hours per day!
- 2) Hang your clothes and let them dry! The colors will be more vivid plus you'll save energy and money!

- 3) Plant a tree! Make it meaningful for you, for the house and the air you breathe!
- 4) Choose matches instead of a lighter! Pick cardboard matches rather than wood ones and save the trees!
- 5) Book an e-ticket when you need to travel, eliminating the use of paper and saving money! In the future it will be the only option, so adjust to it!
- 6) Pay attention when you use ice-melter products. They can harm the animals and cause health problems.
- 7) Use public transportation! Take your bicycle more often and be fit at the same time or walk to the bus station with your friends!

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