

Running Head: SUSTAINABILITY

Recycling: One Small Step for Man; One Giant Leap for Sustainability

English 214

November 5, 2007

I chose to write this paper from the logos perspective. Keeping the earth clean and recycling is pure logic. There are no emotions to bring into arguing about recycling. People just do not get emotional talking about garbage. Logos is all about logic and as I have no way I can write from a pathos perspective, I felt that logos was the best way to bring the point across and sound professional.

In a world where resources are being used up speedily, sustainability concepts are needed. The United States uses so many resources that if the trend continues, the world will suffer in the near future. Steve Johnson, Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, warns “We have a responsibility to sustain - if not enhance - our natural environment and our nation's economy for future generations”

(<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/>). So few people know about sustainability and where to begin that there can be a problem trying to get people to practice good sustainability concepts. Sustainability is monitoring and reusing/replacing that which can be reused. It is using as little as we can and consuming less than what we are.

According to Wikipedia, “sustainability is a characteristic of a process or state that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely. The term, in its environmental usage, refers to the potential longevity of vital human ecological support systems, such as the planet's climatic system, systems of agriculture, industry, forestry, and fisheries, and human communities in general and the various systems on which they depend”

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability>). Education is the first step to showing of the people of the world the practices that is going to allow for sustainability. We have all

heard it from the time we were in elementary school, but recycling is key to helping in sustainability.

Recycling cuts down on the natural resources that we use. The United States alone produces about 180 metric tons of garbage and waste every year. That shocking amount is almost twice as much as Europe and Japan and over five times more than developing countries (<http://www.bookrags.com/research/waste-disposal-wob/>). That is a lot of waste; most of which could be cleaned, crushed, and reused to build buildings, for packaging, or paper, or to build toys for children. Those materials include discarded glass, metal, aluminum, paper, cardboard, and other materials. Food wastes and garden/yard wastes can be used as compost to fertilize gardens that produce more food for our consumption. “The largest single category is paper and cardboard, which make up roughly 40% of the municipal waste stream...metal cans and glass bottles represent about 15% of total trash”( <http://www.bookrags.com/research/waste-disposal-wob/>). Recycling could save 95% of the energy that is used to create things, such as aluminum cans for soda.

Many states in the United States of America are required to recycle by law. These states include Nevada, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, New Jersey and others (<http://ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/WasteReduce/StatesDoing.htm>). These states are helping in the effort to lower use of natural resources and cut on costs to produce products for consumption. Recycling is not the only key to keep sustainability, but it is a step.

Recycling is one step towards achieving sustainability. Sustainability is using as little as possible and consuming less than what is currently being consumed. “We have a responsibility to sustain - if not enhance - our natural environment and our nation's economy for future generations” (<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/>). This responsibility starts and ends with every inhabitant of the earth. Recycling makes the process less daunting.

<http://www.bookrags.com/research/waste-disposal-wob/>

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<http://ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/WasteReduce/StatesDoing.htm>

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<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/msw/faq.htm](http://www.epa.gov/msw/faq.htm)