

Tajratan Dhillon 8YB Plastic Waste Reduction

What can be done at home, at school or in my community to help reduce the amount of plastic waste? Well, what can be done is something that I know will have to have a strong message behind it and a lot of effort will have to be made. The things that are currently being done by our homes, schools and communities are not enough. Some things that we are doing right now are actually making a big difference but more needs to be made. When trying to reduce plastic waste, the first step is to become educated and be aware of what you are trying to and trying not to do. At our schools, what can be done is that programs can be put in place to educate children and our society about what and what not we are doing for our community. While at home, whatever is taught to these children, will become something they do and will stick by. As a community, there should be efforts made by local organizations to reach out to its citizens and make them aware of this ongoing crisis.

In our homes, schools and communities, some efforts that are being done can be improved. Such as, the willpower in oneself to make an effort. What I think is that the people of our community are not taking this problem seriously and are not making an effort to help reduce plastic waste. What we can do as the young members of our community is that we can make a statement to our local communities to inform them about this arising situation. Telling them something like it takes 100 years for a plastic water bottle to decompose may trigger something to make a change. One could say that it is the responsibility of our youth to solve problems that may affect our own future. So, informing the rest of the community and all of those who don't know about this arising situation to stop it.

As we all know, small things make a big difference in our everyday lives. The bad and the good all create a form of an impact. The bad could be that we tend to buy more plastic over reusable materials simply because of the illusion that it is cheaper. For instance, the biggest culprit; plastic water bottles. When people buy plastic water bottles, they are viewed as cheap. The average price for a plastic water bottle in Ontario is \$4.78 for a pack of 12 according to Statistics Canada. If one drinks 2 bottles a day for one month, \$11.95 is spent. If one drinks 2 refilled bottles a day for a month, only about \$3.00 are spent. So, it is a better investment to buy a reusable water bottle. The good could be: using reusable bags instead of plastic bags. If a family buys groceries 4 times in a month and uses 7 plastic bags each time that cost 5 cents each, in a year, \$16.80 are spent. If reusable bags are bought, it is free year round. If learning about these kinds of small things could be very impactful not only for our environment but, for our local communities as well.

In conclusion, plastic waste is not only something that we children can work to eliminate, it is something that everyone has to work together as a community to achieve and we all have to do our part to make sure this does not remain an issue.