



SEALOEarth
Serene Environment And Life On Earth

A world in which all people participate in the stewardship of planet Earth.

SEALOEarth in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC since 2017

NEWSLETTER

Earth Day 2018

“We should not forget that it will be just as important to our descendants to be prosperous in their time as it is to us to be prosperous in our time.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt

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We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter!



Northern White Rhino

Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Lalkipia, Kenya

The northern white rhino is a subspecies of white rhino, which used to range over parts of Uganda, Chad, Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Years of widespread poaching and civil war in their home range have devastated northern white rhino populations, and they are now considered to be extinct in the wild. Only two female remain, both on Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

In March 2018, the 45-year-old Sudan, the sole remaining rare subspecies of white rhino, died in Kenya. Ol Pejeta Conservancy chief executive Richard Vigne said, “We at Ol Pejeta are all saddened by Sudan’s death. He was an amazing rhino, a great ambassador for his species, and will be remembered for the work he did to raise awareness globally of the plight facing not only rhinos, but also the many thousands of other species facing extinction as a result of unsustainable human activity.” (Press release, 2018)

“Sudan was the last northern white rhino that was born in the wild. His death is a cruel symbol of human disregard for nature and it saddened everyone who knew him,” said Jan Stejskal, director of international projects at the Dvur Králové Zoo. (WP, March 20, 2018)

“This is a creature that didn’t fail in evolution,” said Thomas Hildebrandt, head of reproduction management at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin and one of the project’s leaders. “It’s in this situation because of us.” (NYT, March 2018)

Sudan spent the last years of his life under 24-hour protection from wonderful armed guards, who treated him as a part of their family. An account was created for Sudan on the dating app Tinder last year, not to find love, but to help fund the development of IVF for rhinos. The move won him fans across the world. (BBC, March 20, 2018)

The least SEALOEARTH could do is fly the flag at half-mast in Westford, USA.



Sudan, the last male Northern White Rhino. Source: Thomas Mukoya



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Celebration of Earth

Westford, Massachusetts, USA

Earth Day was celebrated at the J V Fletcher library in Westford, Massachusetts on Saturday, April 28th 2018.

Thanks to Alison for sending pictures of Emmett and Natalie picking up trash along Patten Road on Earth Day. She said, "It didn't take very long to fill a bag. Emmett commented that High School kids leave a lot of trash on the ground and that he's not going to be like this when he goes to High School."

Dr. Chaitanya Hiremath welcomed the audience to the Earth Day Celebration. Ms. Shobha Hiremath was the master of ceremony.

The Keynote address was given by Dr. John Keller, Founder, Weather Analytics, USA. The title of his talk was "Working for a livable climate for future generations." Then Dr. Keller gave away the certificates and he was felicitated by Dr. Bill Harman.

Ms. Shobha Hiremath announced the winners of the Global Essay Contest. Bill Senapati read his essay which was conferred an honorable mention.

To heighten the awareness of the bees dying worldwide, a packet of seeds of flowers were given away to all the people who attended the celebration.

Global Environmental Distinction 2018

Inspiring environmental projects related to fostering biodiversity, strengthening ecosystems, and establishing sustainable practices were recognized.

Respecting the Earth

Ruhi Haryadi (USA)



Global Essay Contest 2018

Around the World

In the early 2018 alone, SEALOEarth's global reach included countries such as, Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Germany, Guam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, and Zambia among others.

We received wonderful essays from seven countries across three continents. The essays were scored by our international panel of judges. We were disappointed that we did not receive any entries in the Youth category again this year. We encourage writers of all ages to make use of the resources made available to get started.

Winners

"Describe how the stewards of our planet Earth are leading by example, how they are making a difference, and how we can help."

Juniors (ages 13-17)

Casey Mahoney (USA)

1st

Jacki Harding (USA)

2nd

Seniors (ages 18-25)

Yein Yoon (South Korea)

1st

Honorable Mention

Connor Galley (USA)

Bill Senapati (USA)





Essay prompt for 2019

“Describe how great things happen when we come together.”

The deadline is March 1, 2019.

For more information, please visit:

<http://sealoeearth.org/essaycontest.html>

Dr. John Keller



MIT Lincoln Laboratory
NASA Wake Vortex Program

Dr. John Keller, a senior Research Meteorologist at AIR Worldwide in Boston, developed and implemented a model of the extreme wind climate of Northwest Europe. Dr. Keller was a staff meteorologist at MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, MA. At Lincoln, he provided scientific support for the FAA’s Integrated Terminal Weather System (ITWS) and NASA’s Wake Vortex Program. In 2005, he founded Weather Analytics.

Source: www.climatevoices.org

Respecting the Earth



Ruhi Haryadi

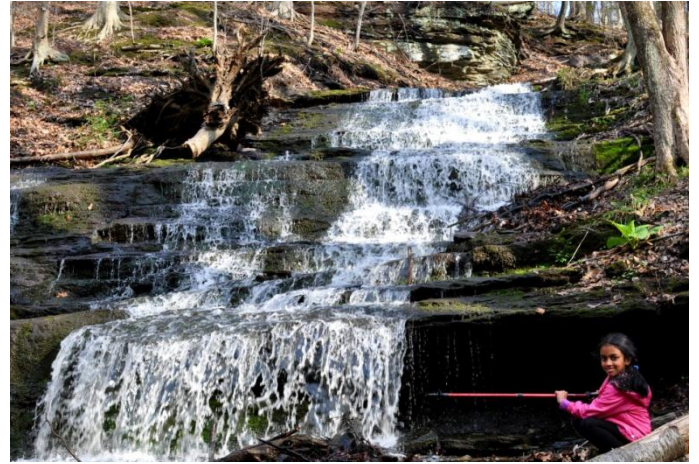
Middletown, Connecticut, USA

“Respecting the Earth” video creation started from a quest to submit an entry for an online short film competition with “respect” as the subject. You can see it here:

<https://goo.gl/HSJSKa>

My parents, my teachers at school and friends have always impressed on me the importance of taking care of Earth by not wasting food, water, proper disposal of trash, and recycling. I have visited several national parks (including the glaciers of Alaska), sand dunes of Dubai and have camped at Lake George. One of my favorite local places is the Wadsworth Falls State Park. Every time I go to any of these beautiful places, I feel very happy and hope everyone does their part in taking care of them.

I have been making short iMovies with my Beanie Boo toys for some time now. So, when my parents told me about the competition and told me the subject of the movie I was excited to take part in it. I chose to do it about Mother Earth because I thought if there was something that really needs respect, it is Earth. I love animals a lot - the frogs at Wadsworth, the squirrels, chipmunks and birds that come to our bird feeders and the little earthworms that come out when it rains. My beanie boos are my substitutes for all the wonderful animals in this world.



So, with Amma & Appa’s help I wrote the scenes, recorded with my iPhone and formatted all the clips and images adding sound effects with iMovie. I am hoping my dear beanie boo animals can convey their message and heighten awareness of the responsibility of loving and caring for this beautiful planet of ours.

Nature in your Neighborhood



New Hampshire, USA

The Saving of Hampton the Snowy Owl – A Lesson in Teamwork

Pat Macoul

New Hampshire, USA

Local Wildlife Photos

In the small seacoast corner of NH, Earth Day 2018 was celebrated by many excited bird and nature lovers at the release of “Hampton”, an injured Snowy Owl who had been rescued, and then treated and rehabilitated.

This joyous celebration was only possible through the unbelievable teamwork of many: from the man who first noticed the Snowy Owl in distress and enlisted the aid of others to help him watch over the bird until it could be captured; to the NH Fish and Game who responded to attempt rescue(s) of the elusive Snowy; to an unknown good Samaritan who later saw and reported the injured Owl to Police the day before a major winter storm; to the Animal Control Officer who responded and was finally able to capture the endangered Snowy with the help of some volunteers; to the Veterinary Emergency Hospital staff, who treated him; and to the wildlife rehabilitator and her team of volunteers, who worked relentlessly to bring him back to health, strength, and flight.

It is believed that Hampton was injured by a passing car, and it is known that he spent at least four days on the ground, unable to fly well or to hunt. When he was finally captured on March 1st after multiple attempts, Hampton was dehydrated, had spinal and head trauma, lead poisoning, a hairline fracture in his wing, and was emaciated.

We applaud the dedication, cooperation, teamwork, caring, and love for nature shown by all of those involved, both known and anonymous.



We applaud the first driver, Peter Gray, who noticed the Snowy Owl in distress and cared enough about our earth and its creatures to do something about it. He contacted the Police and then the Fish and Game team, as well as enlisting the help of neighbors to keep an eye on the bird. He asked the local dog-walkers to keep the dogs a safe distance so as not to cause further distress to the Owl. He returned numerous times to watch over and to see if there was a chance to attempt capture.

We applaud the Police Department willing to send a resource out to help what others may have considered “just a bird”.

We applaud the Animal Control Officer, Tony Palmisano, and the Fish and Wildlife team, who spent time, over several days, trying to rescue this injured, but still elusive, creature.

We applaud the second driver, the good Samaritan, who called Police. Luckily, the Snowy was in a place where he could be captured. In its weakened state, this Snowy Owl would not have made it through the major winter storm that hit just the day after it was finally captured.

We applaud those who were finally able to capture him: Tony, the Animal Control Officer, and some volunteers from “On the Wing”.

We applaud the team at the Veterinary Emergency Hospital who responded at 6am for an emergency exam.



We applaud the rehabilitator of many Raptors, Jane Kelly of “On the Wing”, whose whole life seems to revolve around the awesome creatures that she helps.

And we applaud the hundreds of Facebook friends who offered continuous encouragement and support over the weeks that it took to get Hampton ready to return to the wild. The very first Facebook posting had hundreds of responses! And it only went up from there as others shared the page.

So many in the area breathlessly followed Hampton’s story and progress on Facebook, the local seacoast websites, and the local television station.

Jane, the rehabilitator at “On the Wing”, was kind enough to provide regular updates to Hampton’s “followers”:

** “... The bird is eating like a little Piglet.... Getting stronger, more vibrant.... Has the typical snowy owl scowl going.... Which is a great sign. The key to this bird’s recovery is getting the inflammation of the thoracic spine down in order for its feet to work properly..... That’s their biggest tool.... Will keep you posted and thank you for having an interest in the bird’s recovery”*

** “Update: “Hampton” is perky with an attitude.... which is a great sign. Still dealing with the inflammation of thoracic spine which is limiting the bird’s foot power. Just takes time.”*

** “Update: “Hampton” ate a whole squirrel today. Feather mites are dead. Appetite is huge, balance is better. Gaining strength and attitude.... Still unable to use its feet to full capacity.... Spinal and head injuries tend to take time. Continuing with anti-inflammatory meds”*

(How long does recovery typically last?) “It all depends, fracture 3 to 4 weeks and then conditioning muscles another few weeks.... Spinal injury... that varies hard to say”

** “Someone got a bath. Slowly gaining weight and strength. Moved to a slightly bigger enclosure.... Still needs to be confined to limit movement, in order to heal. Fingers crossed. Thanks for all the thoughts, prayers, positive vibes, words of encourage and support. Fortunate to have a circle of support like all of you.”*

* *"The bird is slowly gaining weight and has neurological symptoms at this time... hoping with time, that will change"*

* *"Waiting on ... spinal injury to heal, that will determine if he is releasable"*

* *"Update on 'Hampton': he is at ideal weight and feeling better. However, today we tested ... flight ability and he's not there yet. Will give him more time. Thanks for checking in on him. No release this coming week unless something changes."*

* *"'Hampton' ... moved outside to a bigger enclosure.... Fingers crossed"*

* *"Hampton" is building strength and muscle. Tomorrow will test flight abilities on a creance line. If all goes well, ...look at release next week. Fingers crossed."*



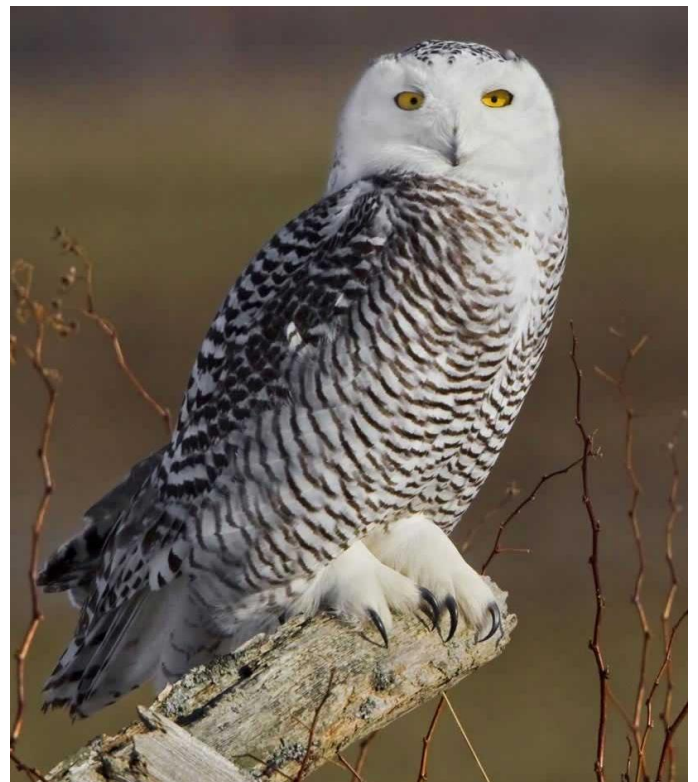
Earth Day 2018 was truly meaningful for dozens of Hampton "followers" who were lucky enough to attend the release; and was also meaningful for the surrounding communities who were able to watch online and on television. It seemed like the whole state of NH celebrated this event!

Good things, and even great things, are possible when individuals take steps to preserve our planet and our wildlife. One person who cares and is willing to take the first step can make a difference in our world.

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Snowy Owl



A large, powerful owl of the high Arctic tundra, colored for camouflage during northern winters. In summer it may be nomadic, concentrating and nesting where there are high populations of the small rodents called lemmings. At other times it takes a wide variety of prey, including birds as big as geese. During some winters, large numbers of Snowy Owls appear south of the Canadian border.

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Earthly Efforts



Casey Mahony
Massachusetts, USA

Influential people who use their power to improve the world often inspire others to contribute to the cause as well. In the case of the environmental movement and climate change, many politicians, scientists, and business leaders are taking a stand to express their concerns and implement changes to the current climate policy. These individuals all share characteristics that resemble those of a transcendentalist. Transcendentalists such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson held strong beliefs that one should advocate for their convictions unapologetically; even if that would entail rising up against the law. They place emphasis on the individual rather than the traditionally esteemed institution. Thoreau proposes a thought-provoking question in *Walden* and *Civil Disobedience*, “Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once?” (231). Thoreau’s query instigates a deeper reflection of one’s beliefs and how those beliefs align with the law. The leaders shown in the documentary *One Degree Matters* prove to be modern day transcendentalists and stewards of the Earth. They are absolutely concrete in their beliefs, and willing to take action to attain the preservation of the world we live in, while inspiring others along the way.

In the documentary *One Degree Matters*, José Maria Figueres Olsen, Former President of Costa Rica and CEO of

Concordia 21, expresses his concern for humanity’s destructive impact on the environment. He discusses how Global Warming causes the ice bergs in the North Pole to melt. In the next one to three decades, the North Pole could have minimal to no snow in the summer (One Degree 00:09:20). This would be detrimental to the wildlife inhabiting the area, and the warming of the oceans would rise the sea level (One Degree 00:09:05). Olsen deems the changes that leaders have presented to be positive declaring “this is a tremendous opportunity to reinvent our lives” (One Degree 00:29:00). He further supports his claim advising the “developing world” to “get into this industry because it can’t afford to make mistakes again” (One Degree 00:04:56). Olsen reveals his interest in inspiring average people across the globe. Studies show that there is a strong correlation between temperature and greenhouse gases (One Degree 00:07:05). To decrease the amount of fossil fuels used by humans, Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation of Economic Trends suggests adopting geothermal energy as a primary source of energy. Geothermal energy utilizes the Earth’s heat to provide power to people by converting it into electricity and heating water. This could prevent the need to use harmful gases that damage the environment. By spreading awareness and recommending solutions to the complications, the stewards of the Earth demonstrate their transcendentalist qualities. They are taking the unconventional path by resisting to simply settle and accept an impending fate.



José María Figueres Olsen. Source: Facebook

The reason leaders are able to make such a profound impact on environmental issues is because they have the power and influence to do so. Their prestigious titles and high-ranking positions serve as a platform to expedite communication to civilians. Establishing his authority, Dan Jørgensen, Member of European Parliament and Vice Chair in

Denmark declares “I’m a politician. I make rules to try to prevent climate change. So I need to go and see what’s happening. I need to go and see the consequences of what will happen if we don’t do anything, if we don’t do more to prevent Global Heating” (One Degree 00:03:30). As a person in power, Jørgensen recognizes his duties to mankind and is acting on it by implementing laws. In 2013, Jørgensen was apart of the motion for a resolution on the climate change conference in Warsaw, Poland. This demonstration of strong belief displays the determination of a steward of the Earth. Dan Jørgensen has leads by example influencing many others within his country. In 2004, the Pesticide Action Plan III was implemented in Denmark (AZO Cleantech). The country of Denmark clearly was impacted by politicians like Jørgensen. As people living on the Earth, it is our duty to support legislation that is proposed to benefit our planet.



Dan Jørgensen. Source: Facebook

Another tremendous threat posed to the environment is the excessive use of plastic. “The manufacture of plastic, as well as its destruction by incineration, pollutes air, land and water and exposes workers to toxic chemicals, including carcinogens” (Life Without Plastic). These conundrums are destructive to the well-being of the Earth and its inhabitants. Jeb Berrier, from the documentary “Bag It”, is playing his part to aid our stewards of the Earth and is spreading awareness for this issue. In the documentary, Berrier discloses that plastic bags are made of fossil fuels and therefore are non-renewable (Bag It 00:05:46). In New York, plastic bags are joked to be the honorary flower. This is a horrifying thought that trash is so commonly found in a prominent city such as New York City. Berrier adds that in Europe there are “Plastic bags in

ivers. Plastic bags in canals. Plastic bags everywhere” (Bag It 00:08:47). The plastic bag problem has poor effects on the environment but is also unsanitary and not an appealing appearance. The knowledgable narrator, Jeb Berrier shares the solutions to the problematic situation America faces regarding plastic. “Reduce single-use plastic, don’t drink bottled waters, choose products with less packaging, buy things used, bring your own container, and buy less stuff” (Bag It 01:15:05). Berrier is making a difference by introducing an issue and offering transparent resolutions for people to follow.



Jeb Berrier. Source: Bag It

In a time of uncertainty about the future of the planet, stewards of the Earth take a firm stand. Leaders such as José Maria Figures Olsen, Jeremy Rifkin, Dan Jørgensen, and Jeb Berrier are leading the mission to maintain the environment by example. By suggesting solutions such as Geothermal energy, composing laws to protect the planet, and informing citizens of the Earth. The modern day transcendentalist often embraces unconventional ways and does not fear being the outlyer. Proponents of the environmental movement recieve opposition yet remain unyielding in their convictions. Following the stewards of the Earth will allow people to acheive the unified goal of improving the world we live in. As a global community, now is the time to change.

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The Environment's Inevitable End



Jackie Harding
Massachusetts, USA

In today's world climate change and other factors have been extremely damaging towards the environment. The stewards of the Earth are leading by example in many ways. Leaders around the world are finding ways to make a difference. The Earth's environment is slowly declining through deforestation, climate change, pollution from humans and many other factors. Every single year 130,000 square acres of forests are lost (One Degree Matters 00:28:03). The glaciers are expected to move a meter within this century (One Degree Matters 00:38:03). New York City alone uses one billion plastic bags each year (Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic? 00:29:32). There are an abundance of ways in which people around the world are destroying the environment. When the role models of the world take action and lead by example by making a difference in the environment, they can inspire average people to also take action and help better the environment.

One country that decided enough is enough and the environment need to improve is Sweden. The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development's Better Life Index claim that Sweden is the best environment, with other countries such as Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand,

and Finland also ranking high on their list ("Which Countries Are The Most Eco-Friendly?" 00:00:35). This index measures matters such as air pollution and water quality which affect people on a daily basis ("Which Countries Are The Most Eco-Friendly?" 00:00:45). The first carbon neutral neighborhood was created in Malmo, a city in southern Sweden ("Europe's first carbon neutral neighborhood - Smart Cities - Horizons" 00:00:13). Katarina Pelin, the Director of Environment in Malmo states, "What we are trying to do is to make it easy to live sustainably in Malmo. We are trying to save energy and use it in a smarter way" ("Europe's first carbon neutral neighborhood - Smart Cities - Horizons" 00:00:25). Instead of wasting energy, Malmo wants to use all of the energy that they can and limit the amount they use already. They save energy with public transportation and waste recycling ("Europe's first carbon neutral neighborhood - Smart Cities - Horizons" 00:00:40). By using public transportation there is less air pollution than there would be with private vehicle. "A variety of renewable energy sources generate enough power to provide all the electricity and heating used by the residents" ("Europe's first carbon neutral neighborhood - Smart Cities - Horizons" 00:00:54). By using renewable energy sources the need for fossil fuels is reduced. All of the excess power from the residents is used by the city when energy levels are low, so the city does not have to use their own energy source ("Europe's first carbon neutral neighborhood - Smart Cities - Horizons" 00:01:05). Malmo is setting the example for the rest of the world. To save energy, people can use solar panels to power their homes.

Switzerland also is a leading country when it comes to saving the environment. "According to Yale University's Environmental Performance Index, Switzerland takes the lead [as the most environmentally friendly country]" ("Which Countries Are The Most Eco-Friendly?" 00:00:49). The Yale Index, unlike the other index measures not only the air pollution and water quality but also things like the health of their ecosystems which is found by determining the protected habitats, fish stocks and energy use of the country ("Which Countries Are The Most Eco-Friendly?" 00:01:07). Damaging the delicate ecosystems around the world can destroy the

planet. Although humans rely on the resources the ecosystems provide humanity must use them responsibly. These resources are not unlimited and without them the planet is at risk. People need to stop thinking of ways they can benefit from the environment and think of ways the environment can benefit from them. Switzerland has recently designated a lot of land as national parks and produce half of their energy through hydroelectric power, or energy formed by fast running water ("Which Countries Are The Most Eco-Friendly?" 00:01:18). Designating land as national parks preserves the trees and natural ecosystem in their area. By saving the ecosystem they are saving the environment. An easy way to follow the example Switzerland is setting is to recycle. Landfills are extremely damaging to ecosystems and recycling instead of throwing away trash can dramatically decrease the size of the growing landfills. Switzerland can inspire people around the world to also save their ecosystems and in return save the declining environment.

Bhutan is a small country that is making a big difference environmentally. Bhutan is the only country on the planet that is carbon-neutral ("This country isn't just carbon neutral" 00:07:21). Their constitution requires at least sixty percent of their land will remain under forest cover and currently Bhutan exceeds that requirement having seventy two percent of the county under forest cover ("This country isn't just carbon neutral" 00:05:24). Having seventy two percent of the country covered completely by forest helps to balance out the amount of carbon dioxide in the environment. Bhutan also has many fast flowing rivers which they use to produce renewable energy ("This country isn't just carbon neutral" 00:07:58). Using natural resources to produce energy saves irreplaceable fossil fuels which is incredibly beneficial to the environment. Bhutan also uses sustainable transportation and aids people financially the purchase or electric vehicles ("This country isn't just carbon neutral" 00:12:29). Using sustainable and electric transportation benefits the environment by conserving our limited fossil fuels. Each person on the planet can help by seeing how Bhutan has improved the environment and following in their footsteps. They can plant a tree, use an

electric car instead of gas or even bike to work. Bhutan has set the example for the rest of the world to follow.

Countries around the world are admitting that the environment needs fixing and leading by example to make a difference and inspiring regular citizens to also take action. People around the world have already started to make a great difference. They are using reusable bottles instead of plastic, implementing composting into their day to day lives, more and more schools are offering clubs such as environmental club or composting club to inspire the planets youth. It is easy to see that the countries like Sweden, Switzerland, and Bhutan have inspired the average men and women to make a change and save the planet.

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Everyone Can Make a Step to Preserve Our Beautiful Planet



Yein Yoon
Gangwon, South Korea

People often appreciate that we are living on the most beautiful planet in the universe. Even the anthropocentric people, who do not care much about the environment, cannot help but admire such beauty of our nature – the stunning sceneries of crystal-clear ocean with coral reefs in it, dark night sky filled with sparkling stars, placid emerald-green lakes, splendid mountains with ice cap, tall trees wearing pure-white snow, lush mountains under the serene cobalt-blue sky, and large icebergs floating in the Arctic sea.

Yet, our beautiful planet is severely threatened by human activities and climate change. Amazon rainforests are disappearing by an excessive deforestation, which significantly impairs the air quality and climate. According to the Greenpeace Korea, severe drought in the Amazon, prompted by the climate change all over the globe, initiated a vicious cycle by causing more forest fires in the Amazon, making the weather even arider, and making the Amazon far more vulnerable to the fires. [1] Montana glacier national park is also struggling with the effects of climate change related to changing snowmelt and precipitation patterns. The U.S. Geological Survey revealed that the glaciers famous for its beauty are melting down and retreating, destroying the ecosystems of the park. [2] The video “One Degree Matters” of

the European Environment Agency tells us that the effect of global warming is apparent in Arctic regions and that the loss of ice in Greenland in the last five years (from 2001 to 2006) is equivalent to that in the last century. The video also warns that the North Pole can be ice-free in summer in next one to three decades. [3]

The fortunate news is that there are many stewards of the Earth who are leading by example to preserve our beautiful planet. Elon Musk, also renowned as a succeeded entrepreneur, is one of the leading guardians of our planet. “Climate change is the biggest threat that humanity faces this century ...”, Musk remarked in an interview with Rolling Stone. One of his thankworthy achievements is that Tesla, the company he owns, has developed and sells vehicles running on electricity, solar panel roofs, and high-performance solar batteries. [4] Elon Musk’s such business is making the difference by supplying electricity vehicles which people can utilize with more ease. Also, the large-scale investment put into renewable energy development – especially the investment in the solar city – helps the energy industry to reach the grid parity earlier. Among the numerous contributions to sustainability made by Elon Musk, the most remarkable one is that Tesla decided to open-source its electric vehicle technology to accelerate the advent of sustainable transport. [5] Such decision is astonishing in that Tesla chose to renounce larger profits for the value of sustainability. “Tesla can’t build electric cars fast enough to address the carbon crisis,” Musk said. Though Elon Musk, using his talent and vocation, is trying hard to fulfill his responsibility as a member of humanity to preserve our planet, we – also as a member of humanity -- should help him so that his effort does not be of no avail. People who need to inevitably use vehicles can change their cars to electricity cars. Also, we can implement some solar panels on our house or car roofs. Some might think there will be no significant effect of changing their vehicles and powering their houses with renewable energy; however, the aggregation of those tiny changes will make a huge change that can change our future.

Benoit Lavigueur is another prominent steward of our planet. When he was a carpenter, he built the 90% energy-

saving house, using recyclable and local building materials with a platinum LEED certification. After he completed the construction, which took 6 years, he said that “[he] built this house to prove to people that anybody can do it.” Also, after knowing that there is no job or service that help people to build environmentally friendly houses, he founded “Belvedair”, an ecological house designing and construction company, to democratize ecological construction. His team had built over 50 new eco-friendly houses, trying to raise public awareness about the necessity and importance of energy-efficient houses. [6] The global contribution from buildings towards energy consumption, both residential and commercial, has steadily increased reaching figures between 20% and 40% in developed countries, and has exceeded the other major sectors: industrial and transportation. [7] Regarding this reality, Lavigueur’s decision to establish Belvedair is notable, for he made it easy for other citizens to equip their houses with environmentally friendly materials and renewable energy sources. His effort and success in making his own house are also remarkable in that he demonstrated that everyone can take steps to protect our planet. Many people think that they cannot make any difference because they are “normal” people with no special possession or position. Benoit, one who made – and is still making – a change, however, was one of the “normal” people around us; he was neither a rich nor a CEO of an eminent corporation; he was a carpenter working in a small town in Quebec. As he said during the interview, he proved that anyone can do something, no matter what, using their own circumstances – he used his job as a carpenter to make his own step to take care of our planet. Nevertheless, his steps to preserve our planet cannot be completed without our help. We should help this steward of our planet by trying to change our houses with eco-friendly materials and renewable energy sources or at least by trying to save energy by small, easy actions such as turning off unnecessary heaters and coolers, shutting doors, insulating roofs and windows with newspapers, using energy-efficient light globes, and so on. Moreover, we should think of what we can do using our own situations, as Lavigueur did. When we follow Lavigueur’s footsteps, our planet will recover its beauty.

Michael Shellenberger is a co-founder and senior fellow at the Breakthrough Institute, a global research center that identifies and promotes technological solutions to environmental and human development challenges[9]; a founder of Environmental Progress, a research and policy organization fighting for clean power and energy justice to achieve nature and prosperity for all [10]; and a co-author of “The death of Environmentalism: Global Warming Politics in a Post-Environmental World” and “Ecomodernist Manifesto”. He started out as an anti-nuclear activist but changed into a pro-nuclear activist after realizing that getting renewable energy enough to fuel the world is currently impossible. [11] Environmental Progress has recently sent an open letter to the president of South Korea in July 2017, urging him to reconsider his phase-out proposal given the importance of South Korea’s nuclear program to protecting the climate. [12] His movement, though seems counter-intuitive as an environmentalist, is making a change by offering a new insight and a realistic solution to deal with clean energy issue. His passion and courage to send an open mail to the president of another country also function as a stimulus to the other members of humanity to actively support the cause of preserving our planet. We, too, should sincerely care about the future of our planet, finding out what our planet needs in order to recover. We, too, should muster up the courage to act and strive for our beautiful planet that all of us owe.

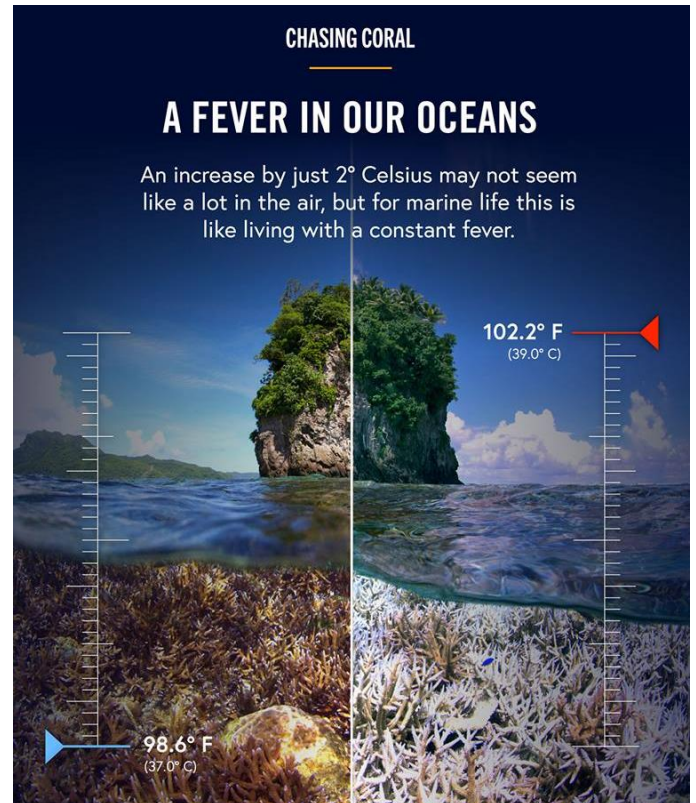
“Climate change is real,” said Elon Musk when he left Donald Trump’s advisory council over the President’s decision to pull out of the Paris climate accords. [8] Thankfully, there are many environmental stewards who are acting in their singular ways, using what they have, pursuing their own values with a common theme -- protecting the Earth – And yes, we should feel grateful for their glorious achievements. But we should never solely rely on them. All of us, all members of our planet, are responsible for our planet Earth – we, too, should cherish our planet, use the resources in sustainable manners, and help the leading guardians of our planet to mitigate climate change. Stewardship as an inhabitant of our planet requires none of the money, special talent, or a certain position. Every single person can do something green to make his or her own

way or to help the leading guardians at least. Regardless whether the contribution is major or minor, every step to make a change will add up to a better life of our own and our posterity. As mentioned in the video “One Degree Matters,” difficulty or unease is no excuse for not doing anything, and climate change is a global problem which needs a global solution. The global solution means that every member of humanity – all of us – should act; there is no right or wrong way to make a difference, and there is no significant or trifling way to make a difference. Now, we must take our own steps to save our own planet and our own lives.

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Chasing Corals (Best Documentary 2017)



Jeff Orlowski

Netflix Original

Divers, scientists and photographers around the world mount an epic underwater campaign to document the disappearance of coral reefs at an unprecedented rate.

Our oceans are warming, because they are absorbing more and more greenhouse gases as humans release massive, harmful amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. The more they heat up, the more algae the coral polyps must release to ensure their own short-term survival — but coral can't survive long-term in such warm temperatures. It's estimated that close to half of the coral in the Great Barrier Reef alone have died in the just 18 months. (Andrew Lapin, NPR)

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The Struggle Against Ocean Pollution



Connor Galley
Texas, USA

The world as we know it is shifting. Nature is negatively affected by humans in numerous ways. While the need for change is being taught by those who understand and research nature, others say that there is nothing unnatural taking place, as they refuse to open their eyes; similar to how a child will hide under the covers as a shield to the monsters in their room. Thankfully there are important individuals such as Sylvia Earle and Ric O'berry. These people are harbingers of critical change.

Recently a documentary was made for Netflix called Chasing Coral. (Chasing Coral) One could assume it would be a documentary merely filming the corals of the world, but honestly, it is much more. What can be found in this documentary is enlightening. The scientists who were shooting this documentary were on a mission to record the bleaching of coral reefs, a last effort to get the message out that coral death is indeed an issue due to the warming of the ocean. After a considerable series of failures, they obtained the footage they needed, a time lapse of a coral bleaching event over a 30 day period, and while it was triumphant on their part, it was still a double-edged sword. As one watches the footage, it is a wake up call, because when bleaching occurs, it is very quick,

spurred by heat changes, it can kill off a colony of coral in days, and that is what the images showed. This is heartbreaking footage to watch, of animals losing their lives in what is now condensed to a series of quick seconds.

A class taught in many schools, known as Aquatic Sciences, is an eye-opener to students around the world. The teachers themselves are fantastic role models as they practice what they preach for keeping nature clean and safe, but they also have an excellent curriculum to teach. One of the main subjects studied in this course, is marine life and biology. Marine mammals, various fish species, and aquatic plants are all taught about through this course, but what truly sparks realization in students, is when the teachers begin to go over the bleaching and death of coral reefs. They speak from their hearts about how devastating it is, that the once abundant marine rainforest, is now dwindling in its existence. Following the trend of seeing and what is happening to our environments, this class showcases many documentaries, but one that stands out is that of Ric O'Berry's expedition to Taiji, Japan. This documentary is known as 'The Cove.' (The Cove) This film follows O'berry on his mission to film the most widely known slaughter of dolphins in the world. During this culling, around 1,000 dolphins are killed, and it is an annual event. However, the number of deaths is slowly declining because of the exposure this film has gained over the years. O'berry is a steward of marine life, filming illegally to make it possible for marine mammals to become free of the tight grip of ill-willed humans.

Sylvia Earle (Ted Talk: Sylvia Earle) is an extraordinary woman, a scuba diver at the age of 82, and still inspiring us with Mission Blue. (Mission Blue) This mission was set forth by her on a Ted Talk. It establishes Hope Spots around the world, areas in the ocean with a wide array of unique marine life. The ordinary person determines these hope spots from their computer. They can submit applications and have their chosen locations put under consideration for protection. Looking at the map of these hope spots is like looking at a map of those who genuinely care about the environment. There are over a hundred hope spots, and more

are still coming to life. Sylvia Earle made this change for everyone's benefit, not just thinking of herself, but those to come after her. These hope spots will be alive for many years to come thanks to an intelligent individual, and her unrelenting fight against those who think to harm the Earth.

While most of the individuals listed deal specifically with the ocean, there is someone who helps the sea uniquely. A man named David Katz (Ted Talk: David Katz) started an organization known as "The Plastic Bank." (Plastic Bank) They have stations set up in many countries, centering around those with severe poverty. For example the bank in Haiti. The people here have no interest in recycling, as their most significant investment of time and effort is spent finding the money for their next meal. The Plastic Bank offers that payment, and also a chance to make a huge difference. They provide jobs for those looking for them, and these jobs just so happen to be picking up plastic. However, instead of giving out money for the plastic they receive, they give out items that are needed by many in the area, such as bricks, food, and cloth. This kind of idea is a brilliant way to help the environment through motivating people in a positive way to clean up their local ecosystems. Without stopping the input of plastic into the ocean through rivers and other waterways, how will the water itself ever get clean?

Even though we've lost around 40% of the world's coral, does that mean we can't save the rest? The answer is no, but timing is critical. David Vaughan is a seasoned scientist, working tirelessly in the field of coral reefs. He has developed a way to adjust the conditions of a water tank to mimic that of the predicted future ocean water. By doing this, he is not only able to see which corals will fail to live in the conditions but grow the ones that will survive to plant them on existing reefs. Growing coral could be the saving grace of the ocean environments. However, it is not just Vaughn doing all of the work. He has a team of skilled scientists working with him, and without their help, this research wouldn't be possible. (Saving Coral Reefs One Coral at a Time) That alone is a testament to the fact that without unity, without the mindset that one's actions will make a difference, the world will break;

but if everyone rises as a group to face the dangerous changes lying ahead, there will be a better chance at succeeding in our endeavors for sound environments.

It is impossible to change the world alone, but it can't hurt to at least try. Start by giving up straws, and then elevate yourself to grander things. Give up more plastic products, start using reusable water bottles. Though it can seem like an inconvenience, marine life must find it inconvenient having plastic floating around their home. Even though it may not look the part, the ocean controls the future, and as Sylvia Earle always says, "No water, no life. No blue, no green." It doesn't take a doctorate to be a steward of Earth, just good intentions and the willingness to help.

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Saving That Which We Call Home



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“The bottom line is that when Senator Inhofe says, 'Global warming is a hoax,' he is just dead wrong, according to the vast majority of climate scientists”(Bernie Sanders Quotes). Vermont senator Bernie Sanders speaks the truth when he speaks against Senator Inhofe who believes that climate change is not real. Humans are faced with a tremendous task to clean up the planet, luckily the stewards of the Earth live around the world in both developed countries and in ones which are still developing. These stewards lead by example which people around the globe can follow or incorporate into their own clean up plans. Average citizens can also take part in the conservation efforts. All around the globe the stewards of the Earth are leading by example, making a difference and providing methods for regular people to follow in order to fight climate change.

Bhutan is leading by example by being the world's first carbon negative country. The developing country is nestled in between two of the most overpopulated countries in the world, India and China. The nation overall is not just carbon neutral by not releasing any carbon into the air it is even carbon negative(This country). That means that the nation's lands intake more carbon than they produce. Since

seventy-one percent of the nation is under tree cover it can absorb many tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere(This country). In addition to reducing the carbon footprint the deep forestation of Bhutan makes it an incredibly biodiverse place. Several years ago a bengal tiger was seen suffering in the hot dense jungle and it was having a difficult time. However, since all of Bhutan's forests are connected together the tiger was able to travel from the hot jungle to the more mountainous areas of the nation where it is much cooler(This country). Bhutan gives examples to people around the world to follow so that they can work towards attaining themselves a cleaner world. Some of the examples are strong government influence. The president of Bhutan has passed many laws for several government agencies to exist and help conserve the beautiful nation(This country). Bhutan also has another practice that governments around the world could use: a focus on Gross National Happiness instead of Gross National Product. This shows how Bhutan is leading by example for other countries around the world.

The Swedish city of Malmo is leading by example by being Europe's first carbon neutral city. The city is proof that developed places can also be changed in such a way that they help the environment. Over the course of 10 years what used to be an industrial wasteland has been transformed into a charming city, with the joint efforts of green companies and the city's government(Europe's first). The city is leading by example because it is the first city in Europe to attain carbon neutrality. A variety of renewable energy sources work together to fulfill the entire city's needs and provide excess energy to nearby cities. The city has lots of public transport such as buses for when the weather is not nice, and bikes for all its residents for when the weather is more pleasant outside(Europe's first). Garbage trucks are eliminated from the equation because there is a system of vacuum tubes that collects all the rubbish to one centralized station. At the station it is carefully burned so that the energy released can continue the burning and create energy for the city(Europe's first). Food waste is reused by the city. All of the city's public transportation buses are fueled by biogas that is produced from the food waste generated by the city. There are very few cars in

the city and those that are there are powered by electricity. Residents can use a simple iPad app to see how much energy they have used in the day, and when electricity is cheaper(Europe's first). By allowing the citizens to interact with how much energy they are using on a ground level, and adjust their activities they are able to feel how they are making a difference, and are more inclined to support the environmental movement as a whole. If the data gathered from the city is positive then more community leaders and governments will try to replicate the results of the town of Malmo which is leading by example.

Similar to a community, a coral reefs host a very vast ecosystem that is very vulnerable to damage from man made waste, and people are making a difference in the preservation of this environment. There are multiple components that must be considered when deciding what areas to protect. Natives living near a coral system have depended upon the pure and raw reef system for food for thousands of years(Conserving our Spectacular). They are in sync with the environment and draw just enough fish to make a living and keep the environment in a healthy state. Banning fishing in an area outright would cause the natives living there to lose their jobs. Joshua Drew states, "To help balance the need for conservation and making a living, scientists had suggested that instead of one big park that provides a lot of coverage for one reef system, while leaving the rest unprotected, a better way is to create a system of protected areas nested together like pearls on a string"(Conserving our Spectacular 00:00:50). The pearl system of coral conservation areas shows a balance between protection and making a living for the natives living in the area. Natives will not be significantly affected because there are many small areas of protected land that they can simply avoid, and many other places where they can fish(Conserving our Spectacular). In case there is an environmental disaster in one of the areas that is protected, all the other conservation areas will be relatively unaffected since they are spread out(Conserving our). If there was just one large protection area then one major disaster like an oil spill would affect the entire area and harm the environment. By analyzing the locals living in an area and the environment as a whole, Earth's stewards

are able to make a difference in the fight against climate change.

Individuals that like to scuba dive around coral reefs can make a difference in the fight against climate change. For example, marine biologist Dr. David Vaughan has a deep passion for scuba diving and he is the program director for coral restoration at the Mote Tropical Research Center in the Florida Keys(Saving Coral Reefs). Dr.Vaughan broke a piece of coral into smaller pieces and instead of the coral becoming stressed and dying it grew like crazy. Vaughan claims, "... we can actually stimulate what the water will be like one-hundred years from now so we can try to forecast which of these corals are gonna be winners and utilize the ones that you know will be better adapted in the future to those conditions"(Saving Coral Reefs 00:01:28). Using science Dr.Vaughan can choose which coral growths have the genetics required to better survive one-hundred years from now. Using the corals that have favored genetics, he can essentially breed coral, similar to how pets can be bred, until he has a coral that has the genetics required to survive successfully in the future. Dr.Vaughan and his small organization are making a difference without any central governmental help.

There are several global leaders who have united together to fight global warming and regular people can help. A member of the European parliament and the vice chair for the environment Dan Jorgensen comments about what we can do to change the world. Jorgensen states, "taxation is probably a very large part of the solution because what we need to do is put tax that is a price on consuming the things that will cause a lot of carbon emission"(00:23:09 One Degree Matters). This elucidates that what needs to happen to help save the environment is that there need to be taxes on things that will result in carbon emission. Taxes will raise the prices of things that emit a lot of carbon. Things that emit a lot of carbon will be more expensive than things that emit little carbon. Things that emit little carbon will be relatively cheaper than things that emit a lot of carbon. Therefore the economy will shift towards the go green mind set. Men and women can carry reusable shopping bags instead of paying tax on plastic bags.

Individuals can also make a difference by using reusable water bottles instead of buying plastic bottles(Bag It). Driving fuel efficient cars is yet another thing that people can do to reduce carbon emissions into the air. Individuals can make a big difference in the fight against climate change by following a green lifestyle.

The planet Earth has been home to life as we know it for thousands of years. It is not time to ask what the Earth can do for us, rather what we can do for the Earth to keep it healthy for generations to come. Developing nations and developed nations must all come together in order to save the Earth. Bhutan one of the smallest nations on this planet boasts seventy-one percent forest cover and it is carbon negative. Sweden a developed nation has renovated an old abandoned junk yard into a high tech environmentally friendly neighborhood. Coral reefs are also an essential part of saving the Earth from calamity. Finally, taxes can be the solution to change the consumer mindset to become environmentally friendly. The blue-green planet has been home to life for millions of years and it must be conserved in order to sustain life in the uncertain future.

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Dr. David Vaughan



Senior Scientist & Program Manager Coral Reel Restoration Program Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

This project highlights Mote's coral reef restoration efforts and the incredible partnership it takes to accomplish our goals," said Dr. David Vaughan, Executive Director of Mote's IC2R3. "Coral reefs are rapidly declining because of various human impacts, and we can't let these impacts completely destroy a once beautiful and thriving ecosystem that has given so much to us. We want the public to gain a broader understanding of Mote's coral research and restoration methods, threats to coral reefs, and the efforts of NOAA, Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Park Service — our valued partners in conservation, research and restoration of coral reefs."

Source: <https://mote.org/>

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Hiremath family for generously donating their time, believing in the vision of bringing people together, caring for all inhabitants of our unique planet, and cherishing the planet.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for their time, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Thanks to our international panel of judges of the essay contest. Invaluable time of all volunteers and the financial contributions are much appreciated. Thanks also to Home Depot and Staples for their in-kind donations. We are grateful to the staff of the J V Fletcher Library for providing the venue, equipment, and support.

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