

This I believe...that one couple can make a difference. When conversation comes up about people trying to individually make change in the way things are done, you often hear, "why should I change the way I do things. Why should I go out of my way to do things to save the world when my actions alone will not help." I know two people who go out of their way on a daily basis to help make the difference.

Every time a light bulb goes out in their house, they replace it with a low carbon emitting bulb. So one by one, they will eventually have all these types of bulbs in their home. They live a home built by their own four hands, framed and floored with pine, which has low embodied energy since it is native to North Carolina.

They compost all kitchen and garden scraps. The compost is cycled back on to the garden and also on to a worm bed. The worm bed is used to dig fishing worms for summer fishing.

They have an outdoor wood burning furnace for heat and hot water. The wood that fires the furnace is harvested off their land own land, by their hands. Only fallen or dying trees go into the fire box. The ashes are cycled out and put on their garden during the summer.

These two recycle like it's going out of style. The husband takes a trip nearly every Saturday morning to the recycling center at the dump. All things used at this household that can be recycled are recycled.

There is about a 2.5 miles stretch of road near their home that the husband picks up trash on at least once per week that motorists so inconsiderately threw out their window. He even recycles the trash off the road. They had a close family member pass a few months ago, and the husband picked up trash along a different stretch of road, about 2 miles, so the road would look nice for the funeral procession.

I really am not sure that they realize the impact that just they will make over their lives, they just do it because it's the right thing to do. These two people are my parents.

I believe they have implanted in me the importance of taking care of the earth long before I was taught it in school. It has been instilled in me so much that I will walk around campus holding recyclable trash until I come across a yellow or red recycling can.

My parents have proven to me that a difference can be made.