

I believe in recycling. I believe that if something can be re-used then it should be no matter what it is.

As a child, growing up in a low class family in rural North Carolina I always had to re-use something to save some money. I have worn more than one pair of hand-me-down pants from my older cousins and played with more than one hand-me-down toy.

My grandpa was a pig farmer, but he also had chickens, cows, and a few goats. The pigs were for sale and everything else was for food. Of all the pens built to hold the animals not one of them was built from a piece of lumber from a hardware store, some came from the dump and others came from old houses. He even re-used the nails out of the lumber, by pulling them out with a nail puller and then beating them straight with a hammer. I can still remember my grandpa looking in the dump for lumber. One time I ask him why he wanted junk out of a trash can and he told me “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure”.

I’m turning 21 in a few weeks and still try to live my life the same way my grandpa did - reusing any and everything I can. About two years ago my girlfriend wanted a bookcase and just so happen this was the same time me and her father went to her grandmother’s old house that was soon to be torn down and developed over. The floors of the house were made from cypress trees, very strong and beautiful wood; we took the wood from the floors and made her a bookcase much more durable than store bought ones. All we had in the bookcase was labor and screws, but this way provided a lot of sentimental value. This is a good way to recycle wood and save some natural resources.

I know very few people today who will re-use anything; it’s even hard to find somebody who separates the recyclables at home. Buildings are being torn down and carried to a landfill were they will stay for eternity. The buildings that are built to take the place of them are constructed from virgin materials. Materials that are composed of resources that future generations are going to be without unless we change our mind-set. Materials need to be designed that can be recycled to be reused for either its original purpose or for another. If society does not change their mind-set then future generations are going to be without the natural resources they need to survive.