

This I Believe Essay

I believe in the importance of sustainability. I view sustainability as more than an idea, but as a lifestyle that promotes environmental responsibility. I cannot say that I am a model citizen in terms of sustainability, but I have made some changes in my daily life to be more environmentally friendly.

Until the last few years, I was never concerned with recycling materials or turning a light off when I left a room. Growing up, my family never recycled because the recycling service was not available where we lived on the outskirts of town. Why recycle if you have to actually leave the house and take it somewhere else to be recycled, right? This was the mindset we had, so we just threw all of our garbage in the trash and off to the landfill it went. This is why I associated recycling with inconvenience for many years.

My mindset has shifted since being educated in the importance of sustainable practices. I accept the challenge that we are now faced with to design buildings, communities, etc. that are sustainable and reverse the cradle to grave pattern that has been dominant for so many years. I think it will take longer to achieve this goal than it did for the environment to reach its present state. The only way that the environment's health could return to its condition prior to the industrial revolution is if the vast majority accepts the role of living sustainably. I believe that we as a society are beginning to realize that a "conversion" to energy efficient living is in order, and now it is a matter of executing this lifestyle.

I am not one that believes that global warming will bring about the end of the world. Honestly, I am not even concerned about global warming. This may sound oxymoronic to say that I am for sustainability and not worried about global warming, but I believe the end of this world will come in God's time and planning. I simply believe in living sustainably because I think that humans should be good stewards of the world that God has created for us to live in.