

SAMPLE ESSAY

The key to protecting the environment is action. We all must work together to make the environment as clean and healthy as possible. Give specific reasons why.

Environmentalists say that protecting the health of our planet will help us all. However, it is really hard to change our lives enough to prevent global pollution. The biggest trouble, for example, with most air pollutants is that they are invisible. That makes it difficult to see how dangerous they are.

Consider such dangerous pollutant as carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide comes from things we do every day, like driving cars. A gallon of gasoline weighs eight pounds. If you burn it in the engine of a car it releases more than five pounds of carbon in the form of carbon dioxide. Even our gas stoves give off carbon dioxide.

New kinds of cars and furnaces that run on solar power or wind power or some other kind of renewable energy will help conserve scarce fuel and reduce the amount of pollutants being released into our air, land, and water. But while we are waiting for those kinds of things to come along, we need to use less gas, oil and coal. It's true that we probably can't give up cars altogether — but we can use them less. People could walk and bike many more places than they do now. At least, they could drive small cars that use less gas.

Now many people are fighting for the environment, but despite the work of many people, each year the health of our earth gets worse. Unless we are willing to work on saving the environment, it will probably keep getting worse. But if we choose to care about our planet, we could leave the world greener than we found it.