

Mahamadou Sumareh
New Brunswick

Grade 8
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

My Crazy Ideas On Saving The Earth

By: Mahamadou Sumareh

Reduce, reuse, and recycle: the three R's that everyone wants to do frequently, but only some do. To raise awareness about recycling, some people hold fundraisers, protest, etc. However, are they really making that much of a difference? I personally would never chain myself to a tree to relay a message. Perhaps there is a safer alternative. If you'd like to hear some, listen to my crazy ideas.

As I said before, I believe I have alternate ideas that can become real solutions. One idea is what I like to call, "The Other Side". American businesses throw away about 21 million tons of paper every year. That's 175 pounds per office worker. A simple solution to this is to *use the back of the paper!* I mean, really, is it that hard to flip the paper over and start again? I'm an artist, and it wouldn't kill me to flip the paper over. Also, adults who print papers should print what they need on both sides, instead of using another one. Yes, it takes more time and it's kind of a pain in the neck, but if you try it, gradually you'll learn how to do it swiftly.

Another crazy idea of mine is "No More Junk!" When you get your mail, sometimes there are these unwanted papers called "junk mail". Since it's extra mail, that means it's extra paper being wasted. More paper means less trees, as we all know. A way to stop this is to simply look up ways to stop your junk mail. For example, a site called <https://www.catalogchoice.org/> promises to stop junk mail from coming through your mail. All you have to do is report it.

To sum it all up, you don't have to go to extremes to inform people about Earth's environmental state. Individual acts can help make a difference. My last idea, and the craziest of them all, is "SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW". Just telling

your friends, family, or even your teachers can help spread the message. Say you told your friend about my "The Other Side" idea. He/She could tell their dad, who tells his wife, who tells her adult friends, who starts a petition to the Board of Education, and they make it a school rule. Even a small act can turn into a big change.