Personal environmental ethics



My personal environmental ethic centers on the belief that it is our responsibility to conserve what we can for the safety and security of future generations to come. Such a task is consistent with what God would like for us to do to better serve our environment and fellow humans. If we deplete all of the earth's natural resources now there will be a drastic reduction of what is left for those generations still to come. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to find way to do in concert with the ways God has taught.

As it states in 1 John 2: 17 NIV: "The world and its desires pass away but the man who does the will of God lives forever." That is, God wants us to do our best to enjoy what he has given us but he doesn't want us to be abusively gluttonous so that future generations have to fight for those rare and precious natural resources in an environmentally barren future world. "Man was to work the Garden of Eden and care for it." (Gen 2: 15) He was meant to use the earth, but not to abuse it. (In today's language, this is what is commonly referred to as sustainability)

To understand the severity of this philosophy, we must come to the realization that everything we have on the earth derives from God and, as the scripture states, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it (PSA 24: 1). "So, we must think of ways to help preserve and save the naturally resources at our disposal. Such accomplishments can be achieved at a very minimal level with such actions as becoming a frequent recycler. Keep in mind, consistently recycling things such as bottles, plastic and paper can reap great conservational rewards.

Consider the Philips Circuit assembly project where I started a program in the "shipping and receiving" area where people can save their bottles and then transports the bottles to a site that would recycle the items. For aluminum cans, I received cash payments and when enough money was saved, I purchased ice cream for the shipping and receiving area employees as a way of saying thank you. The other thing my team and I did was take discarded paper that didn't properly photocopy and cut it into squares. When then used these squares for scrap paper.

The purpose of this was to signal my goal of showing people how to perform simple recycling. For my own part, when I lived in an apartment I would save aluminum cans during the entire year. Then, around the time of the State Fair, I would take the cans in and exchange them for cash. This usually provides me enough money pay the admission and parking fees for me, my roommate and my sister for the State Fair. (And there was also a little money left over to buy something I saw that I liked!) So, by helping God save the environment, a person can also earn a little extra money at the same time.

Additionally, the one thing I learned while living on my own was to turn the heat down when no one is home and keeping the lights turned off in room you are occupying. Also, do your laundry when you have a big load and don't just wash one item at a time. It is also a good idea to help explain to your family why it is important to do things such as this not only because it keeps costs down, but also because is helps conserve resources for future generations. Also, people have asked me in the past what I think of wind power, wave or tidal power, etc.

My response is if we can find way to make alternative energy work effectively, then expand upon it; if not, then avoid it. I understand that some ventures cost a great deal of money to acquire and, in the long run, the costs may offset any monetary savings. As such, you have compare to cost the cost of the venture to see if it is worthwhile or not. In regards to transportation, when I was in good health I would ride my bike for short distance to buy items that I wanted from the store. (I had a cart to put the groceries in after I purchased them. When I lived close enough to the school I was attending, I would ride my bike there as well.

Also, whenever I would go out to a place that was close to home, I would walk there. Much minor actions perform a great saving on natural resources and additionally have same benefit of saving on the cost of gas. Other things people can do in their home are to make sure that the home is insulated well. Saving on heating or cooling bills is a great way to help save natural resources for generations to come. Communities can also work together to do things to help the environment.

People can volunteer and help make the world a cleaner place to live. In a community setting, you need to get the word out to people on how to best use available resources so as to leave some thing for future generations to come. Inn conclusion, it is safe to say we need to find ways to save the natural resources that God has given us so that future generation are not faced with great energy shortages. That is, electricity will still be there and there will be enough water to drink and enough clean air to breath.

The only way we can do this is to educate people about what it will be like not to have these resources in our lives. God gave us this world to live in and he can take it back. Yes, I understand that certain natural resources are gone and we are always finding new ones or must reproduce and alternative that is similar to what we have now. So, I feel that it will time and effort in order to save what we have now for others in the future. Again, it will not make a big different in your life to give up a few comforts. You have to do what is right for the greater good.