

EarthDrive for Earth Day

The health of the earth is of the utmost importance to me. I recycle whenever possible and encourage others to do the same. For years I have turned off my computer monitor when not in use, and the hard drive whenever possible. I buy organic underwear and do my best to utilize sunlight instead of artificial light whenever possible. My household does not contain a dishwasher due to the energy and the massive amounts of water these machines utilize.

I have been a member of the Marist High School Ecology Club since 2007, and have participated in ecologically friendly fundraisers to help deter the costs of bottle-recycling facilities on campus. Along with select members of the club, I volunteer to help with the weekly school-wide recycling collection. Even in this past year, our recycling efforts have grown immensely. This past autumn, I participated in the Ecology Club's Chicago River clean-up program. This program entailed a full day of canoeing down the murky waters of the Chicago River and retrieving as much waste as possible from the shores and the surrounding water. It was a dirty job, but somebody had to do it!

This past January, I initiated the Frosted Mug Recycling Program at my place of employment. This lessened the establishment's paper waste immensely. As a member of PETA (as well as PETA 2's Street Team), I am currently working on curtailing my personal meat intake, in an effort to reduce the growing number of cows born only to feed people, and, as a result, their methane output and the tons of water necessary to raise a cow for slaughter. I am a member of the Defenders of Wildlife and I participated in their Adopt-a-Wolf campaign this past year. I am also a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists and I follow their research very closely.

As a senior at Marist High School, I am currently enrolled in the Honors Environmental Science program. This class is one of my favorites because it deals with subject matter that interests me greatly. Having learned so much from this class, I now know just how much of an impact my peers and I have on our planet. I know the information I have obtained from this class will last a lifetime and do a world of good.