How can South Plainfield become a more sustainable community?

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Our Earth is a unique planet and taking care of our communities together with little changes can make our planet a safe place to live. The environment is made of both living and non-living things. Life depends on the non-living part of Earth like land, air, water, sun and many other things. Living things include plants, flora, fauna etc. Disturbing any of these things will have an impact on our life. Therefore we should try to develop our communities with environment friendly and sustainable things. It should not only be just the best way but it should be the only way “A no choice” situation. First and most important is that everyone should take it as a challenge to implement the following things in their lives.

One of the important way to keep our community sustainable is by saving energy and installing solar panels for their houses or businesses. Solar energy can even be used for cars. The solar energy can be stored in the batteries. This stored energy then can be used for number of applications such as domestic power, street lights, water pumping, railway signals and appliances. One of the best example is a solar energy center that was setup in CA which generates 1 million KW hours of pollution free electricity for the state. By empowering people to implement such projects within the communities, there will be a huge reduction in electricity consumption resulting in huge financial savings for the state and the community to grow economically. The man made chemicals impact the climate changes and the amount of Ozone. Therefore, regular wind patterns are affected. Ultimately diminished Ozone layer will help heat up the atmosphere adding to the threat of Global warming. In most cases fossil fuels are burnt to create electricity. Some examples of fossil fuel are oil and petroleum. The least amount of electricity we use the better we are making community sustainable.

Air pollution is another factor affecting our environment and it will cause many problems that we cannot control. The use of public transportation and car pooling should be encouraged among people. Good rebates and incentives should be offered by the Government as a reward to those who buy electric cars and use public transportation. This can result in less pollution, less traffic congestion and more savings. Walking and cycling is another alternative to short distance travel avoiding cars. New York City now offers bicycles that can be conveniently rented to travel short distances. Such initiatives can be implemented in our community as well. Many products that we use to clean our homes release harmful chemicals in the air that we breath. We should avoid such products and look for alternatives that are environment friendly and should be made easily available in community stores.

When we throw the garbage away, it ends up in landfills. We should avoid using foam cups, foam plates, basically avoid using any item that cannot be reused and recycled. The landfills are sometimes burned and enormous amounts of greenhouse gases are released in the air which makes global warming worst. Many people throw recycled items with regular garbage. They should make it a habit of separating both. We should use biomass which is a renewable energy source such as garbage waste, wood, timber, industrial waste, agricultural crops, raw material from the forests.

The bottom line is that it is the responsibility of each and every citizen to contribute towards sustainability of their community. We don’t have a choice. Individuals can start by making small changes in their lifestyle for example, carpooling, turning off lights when leaving the room, unplugging appliances not in use, using solar panels, recycling etc. We should strengthen the community and provide ways to improve social connections that will help the community tackle natural disasters and other emergency situations. Community should be educated on health and wellness programs to promote healthy. Free CPR and first aid training should be offered in the community. A strong community is connected through different faiths, social services, emergency preparedness, and by helping each other. Together we can make this possible.