

Wednesday Morning

Dear Friend of the Environment,

I'd like to share with you a story about one person who's determined to make our world a better place. A person who just might remind you of someone in your own family.

According to Susie Johnson, there's nothing more important than saving the environment. But what does she know? **She's only 11 years old.**

As part of a special school program, Susie and the rest of her classmates are learning about sustainability, and how our everyday choices greatly impact the future of our planet.

Susie's mother, Teri, says that her daughter is very enthusiastic. Maybe a little too enthusiastic at times.

"We can't seem to keep any lights on in our house anymore," says Teri. "Susie is constantly turning them off, because as she puts it, it's just not necessary."

Teri says that Susie has planted a garden in the backyard, carries reusable grocery bags to the store, and has even begun composting.

“I know I’m just 11,” says Susie, “well, 11 and a half, but it kind of scares me when I think about all the damage to our planet. I mean, **it’s not like we can just go live somewhere else.**”

According to her mother, Susie has always been exceptionally smart and talkative. But now, whenever she meets someone new, she asks them what they’re doing to reduce their carbon footprint.

“We get a lot of blank stares after that,” says Teri.

As Susie likes to say, saving the environment isn’t just something that we **can** do. It’s something that we **have to** do.

Her grandmother, Beverly, could not agree more. “Before ECOsociates came to Memphis, we never spent much time thinking about this stuff. But now I realize that protecting the environment isn’t something you do for yourself. It’s something you do for your children and grandchildren.”

And that’s why I’m writing to you today. We need your help more than ever.

Helping Communities Do Well, By Doing Good

At ECOsociates, our mission is to help small businesses and community groups find easy ways to make a huge difference.

For individuals, we encourage simple tasks like turning off the lights, composting, and recycling. For businesses and groups, we promote reducing waste, environmental education, and the concept of *paying it forward* in the community.

Each ECOssociates center matches local eco-volunteers with businesses, schools, churches, and other groups. We provide educational materials that the volunteers use to teach sustainable practices within each community.

We currently have 36 ECOssociates centers across the U.S., just like the one in Susie's hometown of Memphis. But this is a number we hope to double in the next year.

Long-time member and donor, H. Wallace says, "It's extremely gratifying to know the children in my town are learning about sustainable living thanks to the ECOssociates program in their schools. It's the main reason I donate."

It's not too late to reverse the damage that we've already done to the planet. **But we must start now** before "too late" becomes a sad reality.

According to a recent United Nations study involving 1203 scientists in 160 countries, environmental destruction is increasing faster than expected.

I worry that there is a sad truth speeding towards us. I worry that our **hope might soon turn into regret.**

Our community programs rely on private donations from individuals, such as yourself, along with government grants and corporate sponsorship. A gift of \$50 today will provide a classroom of 25 children with all the educational resources, and inspiration, they will need to make the **change we all need.**

Susie says that someday she hopes to become an eco-volunteer for ECOssociates. “I can’t think of anything more important. I mean, if we can’t save this planet, then what’s the alternative? Maybe I should become an astronaut, too. Just in case.”

I hope you will join us in our goal to add 36 more ECOssociates centers in the next year. The next center could very well pop up in your own community.

Sincerely Yours,

Rhonda Jenkins

Founder, ECOssociates.org

P.S. Our mission is more urgent now than ever before, which is why we so **desperately need your help.** Please fill out and return the reply card today, along with your generous donation. Your support will make a big

difference in helping communities just like Susie's **do well, by doing good.**