

Denton Shaw

### **1. The Earth Steward:**

When I was ten years old I moved from San Antonio to Port Arthur, TX, one of the biggest refining hubs in the country. There was pollution in San Antonio from all the cars in an urban setting, but I had never seen anything quite as bad as Port Arthur. From the constant smoky haze to the obnoxious smells, Port Arthur is a very polluted place. After living there for over ten years, I came to the conclusion that the future of earth might be destined for a similar fate as Port Arthur if steps are not taken now to protect our precious planet. It was at this point where I first felt a responsibility to care for the earth and do all that I possibly can to make it a place where my children and grandchildren want to live, not a place that is a wasteland.

One way I am honoring that responsibility is by majoring in Wind Energy at Texas Tech University. When I saw this degree, I knew it was the way to fulfill my passion of helping the earth. My degree choice was positively reinforced when I finally got to see some wind turbines up close. I believe that these machines add an attractive visual dynamic to the landscape and I find them very interesting. I will do everything possible to use this degree to help preserve our earth for generations to come. I am also honoring my responsibility of ensuring the well-being of our planet and using its reserves wisely by making sustainability a high priority in my life. One way that I am trying to achieve sustainability is by making a conscious effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle everything that I possibly can. The absolute best way to preserve our resources is to use less of them. I am reducing my usage of many things from water, to paper, to gasoline, to other resources that are hard or impossible to

replenish. Reusing items is the next best way to promote sustainability. A great personal example of this is how I save aluminum cans, jars, pots, and other containers and reuse them to store different items once their original purpose has been fulfilled. Finally, items not eligible for reuse should be recycled. I have always been a big proponent of recycling, and I always make a special effort to separate my recyclable goods from the other trash and put them in the appropriate bin so that they will be taken care of properly. I believe that these steps are movements in the right direction that will help our world continue to be a beautiful place for generations to come.

I will continue to grow and develop in my role as an earth steward by looking for new ways to give back to the planet that has given so much to me. I want to achieve this by expanding the use of wind turbines and other renewable sources of energy to the point where all electricity worldwide is generated from renewable sources. The majority of this green energy would come from wind power because it does not generate any greenhouse gas emissions and does not use precious water resources that are scarce in many parts of the world. This not only helps solve the problem of global warming, but it also helps solve the water crisis present in many parts of our world. I will also progress my earth stewardship role by trying to convince other people to reduce, reuse, and recycle like I do. I know there are many recyclable goods that are piled in our landfills every year. Hopefully by getting a few people to emphasize recycling, I could start a trend that has the potential to change the world.

I will incorporate my commitment to the stewardship of earth's dwindling resources in various ways throughout the rest of my educational and professional career. While in college, I am making sure that I learn as much about the wind industry as I possibly can. I am an officer in the Wind Energy Student Association (WESA) at Texas Tech University and my

organization is demonstrating commitment to the earth by working on ways to improve the Wind Energy program and produce graduates that are passionate about sustainability. As a junior, I am especially interested in the efficiency of wind turbines and what it will take to make them a viable option to bring power to many parts of the developing world which are demanding more electricity. When applying for jobs, I will ask myself whether the prospective position embodies my commitment of sustainability. A career goal of mine is to manage a wind farm for a company that emphasizes using wind energy to protect the earth and one that gives back as much as possible.

I will use wind energy and my other personal sustainability efforts to ensure that our world does not end up like Port Arthur. Having to deal with polluted air and the constant underlying thought that what you are breathing might end up causing health problems is no way to live. All people today and all future generations deserve to live on a planet that they are proud of, one that provides the resources they need for survival, and one that is not polluted. Hopefully through all of my hard work, I can make a small impact today that will have a big impact on the future.