

Payson Moore

Question: In what way have you seen positive change to help the Earth? Describe what about that inspired you to make a change and what else can be done to develop it further.

I feel like my generation has many challenges facing us in the future. The question has been asked often, "How can I make a positive difference in the world?" This is a question most of us have asked ourselves at some point. But, being one person can I really make a difference? I have realized that I am responsible for my own actions so I might not make a huge difference as one person but together we can make an impact on the earth for the better. And just imagine what would happen if we all took steps to make positive changes towards protecting our Earth. While attending college I am going into the engineering program, I am hoping that with the skills that I am able to learn through college I will be able to solve some of the problems we have today.

Over the years, I have seen many beneficial changes in the population's lifestyle that is helping make a positive change on the earth. Some of these changes are as simple as: washing clothes in cold water, changing light bulbs to florescent bulbs, taking shorter showers, planting a tree, recycling glass bottles, brushing your teeth without running water, and using a cruise control on your car when driving which can net a person up to 15% better gas mileage. These are everyday simple ways to help the planet that a person can make without having to make a lifestyle change. I have tried to incorporate these changes and many others into mine and my family's daily lives.

I have a strong interest in agriculture and I have seen how changes through the years have impacted our earth. Agriculture in the last ten years has made an impact by providing more high tech and efficient equipment. The Global Positioning System (GPS) on tractors has been a major benefit to farmers; this is allowing them to use less fuel when they run their tractors by driving in a straight line without as much overlapping. When I finish my degree in Engineering I would like to focus on making a more fuel efficient tractor. Tractors use a lot of diesel when they are being used. I realized last summer while driving a tractor that I was using roughly one hundred and sixty gallons of diesel to just plow a one hundred and twenty acre field. With this poor gas mileage it makes a negative impact on farmers with the high diesel prices. Farmers have many acres to plow and plant and the diesel that is used adds up fast and I see this as a problem. I want to be able to find some way to make the tractor use less diesel, be more economical and having less pollution in the atmosphere. Or maybe in time I could design a tractor that is ran on Bio-fuels which is made from plant-derived ethanol and oils. This could help reduce our dependence on fast-depleting oil reserves.

The good news is that everyone can affect the environment positively with a bit of conscious effort. When everyone makes a conscious effort to reduce personal waste and think about the impact that their every action has on the world around them, a change is within reach.

As anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: **“Never doubt that a small, committed group of citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**