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I would treat my day as President as any other day. I would set out to be the best me, and impact the most people possible. However, I normally wake up around 7 am, this would change. I would wake up early, at 6 am, so I could utilize the bowling alley in my house! After I got all relaxed and rocking, I would get the business part of my day started.

One problem that I find in the United States is that only 32.5 % of the total waste in the United States is recycled (Carriere). I think that waste is a major issue that needs to be taken care of. I would set a new policy for mandatory recycling. A lot of people have the ability to recycle, but just are too lazy or don't see the big picture. However, with a policy set in place, that 32.5% would rise.

Another change I would make, is instead of putting waste in landfills, we would use it as energy. This idea comes from Sweden. They turn garbage into heat and electricity. In Sweden's case, they ran out of garbage and now Norway pays them to take their garbage. Right now, in the United States, 90 percent of all raw materials extracted are ultimately dumped into landfills or burned in incinerators (Truelove). With

this plan of using waste as energy, we would utilize what we had. This would also lead to less natural resources being extracted and used every day.

Another issue that I would take care of is with plastic bags. According to The Wall Street Journal, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. Which is an estimated cost of \$4 billion to retailers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed in the U.S. each year. Many of these are not recycled, and end up in fields, waterways, oceans, or landfills. I would implement a policy that outlaws plastic bags. This would save retailers money. It would save millions of barrels of oil that are used to manufacture the bags. It would also ultimately help our environment. It takes 500 or more years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill, and they don't even fully degrade. They photo-degrade, which makes them turn into microplastics. These micro plastics absorb toxins which continue to pollute the environment ("10 Facts About.."). By taking this step, and outlawing plastic bags, we would make the United States more sustainable.

With my twenty-four hours up, I have successfully implemented policies that will help make the United States, and ultimately the World, a more sustainable place. By making recycling mandatory, we will slow down the growth of landfills and reuse what we have. Then using waste as energy, natural resources will be preserved, and we will have cheaper energy. Also, with the ban of plastic bags, we will limit toxins, save retailers money, which will benefit the economy, and save natural resources. These changes will help lessen our carbon footprint and benefit us as a country.

## Work Cited

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