

BROOKE CROUCH

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UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

GOAL: PROTECT AND CONSERVE HALF THE EARTH, AND MAKE IT INTO SAFE LAND WHERE ANIMALS AND PLANTS CAN THRIVE.

WHY: AS WE LEARNED IN CHALLENGES SUCH AS BIODIVERSITY AND SOIL, OUR WORLD WAS NOT DESIGNED TO THRIVE THE WAY WE ARE TREATING IT. BY LOSING OUR CONNECTION WITH THE LAND, WE ARE CRUELLY EXPLOITING IT. OUR UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL, HOMOGENIZED AGRICULTURE THAT DEVASTATES LAND AND SPECIES, NEED TO STOP. WHEN WE TAKE AWAY THE NATURAL BOUNTY WE HAVE (IE. FORESTS, GRASSLANDS, OCEANS) IN FAVOR OF INDUSTRIALIZING IT, WE ARE DOING OURSELVES AND THE PLANET MANY GREAT DISSERVICES. SOME OF THE MAIN ONES INCLUDE:

1. LOSS OF SPECIES. WE ARE FACING THE 6TH MASS EXTINCTION IN ALL OF HISTORY- AND THIS ONE WAS CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY. BY MERCILESSLY EXPLOITING ANIMALS AND TAKING AWAY THEIR NATURAL HABITATS, WE HAVE DRIVEN MILLIONS OF SPECIES, BOTH FLORA AND FAUNA, TO EXTINCTION. BIODIVERSITY IS ESSENTIAL TO A HAPPY LIFE- IT CAN HELP US PREVENT AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, SOMETHING WE DESPERATELY NEED. DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES CAN CURE ALL NUMBERS OF AILMENTS- OR THEY COULD HAVE, IF THEY WEREN'T EXTINCT. THE OCEANS, ONE OF THE BIGGEST SOURCES OF FOOD, ARE ACIDIFIED AND OVERFISHED- IN A FEW SHORT DECADES, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY FISH LEFT AT ALL, LEADING TO A MASSIVE FOOD SHORTAGE. DIVERSE STRAINS OF PLANTS ADAPT TO DISEASE AND NATURAL DISASTERS MUCH BETTER THAN HOMOGENEOUS ONES, PROVIDING A MORE STABLE FOOD SOURCE. AND EVEN IF THESE ISSUES WERE NOT HAPPENING, IT IS STILL DEEPLY UNETHICAL TO PLAY GOD AND RID THE PLANET OF MILLIONS OF INNOCENT LIVES FOR OUR OWN SELFISH GAINS.

2. SOIL. HEALTHY SOIL CAN GROW HARDIER PLANTS AND SUCK UP A LOT OF CARBON DIOXIDE. ONE OF THE MAJOR CARBON SINKS IS THE SOIL- WHEN OUR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES HAVEN'T MADE IT UNABLE TO ABSORB IT. IF HALF OF THE LAND ON EARTH REVERTED TO NATURAL LAND, THE SOIL WOULD BE MUCH HEALTHIER AND WOULD BE ABLE TO ABSORB A LOT MORE CARBON THAN IT DOES NOW- WHICH IS A HUGE AREA OF CONCERN FOR US. HEALTHY SOIL COULD POTENTIALLY BE THE KEY TO GETTING OUR CARBON DIOXIDE LEVELS BACK DOWN TO SAFER LEVELS.
3. TREES. GUESS WHAT? TREES ABSORB CARBON DIOXIDE! WOW. WHO KNEW. TREES HELP KEEP SAFE LEVELS OF CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND ABSORB THE AMOUNT THAT COULD MAKE IT UNSAFE- THIS IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT IN PREVENTING CLIMATE CHANGE. IF WE REFORESTED SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF LAND ON EARTH, WE WOULD BE VASTLY INCREASING OUR POTENTIAL CARBON SINK. THIS IS INCREDIBLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE WE CANNOT SOLVE OUR CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM SIMPLY BY STOPPING EMITTING GREENHOUSE GASES- THERE IS TOO MUCH ALREADY IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND TOO MUCH COMMITTED WARMING FOR THAT TO BE SUFFICIENT. WE NEED WAYS TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF CARBON IN THE ATMOSPHERE- AND REFORESTING COULD HELP SIGNIFICANTLY.
4. THE BEAUTY OF NATURE. NATURE IS NOT ONLY ENVIRONMENTALLY WONDERFUL, BUT ALSO PERSONALLY WONDERFUL. I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD COMPRISED ENTIRELY OF GRAY CONCRETE AND CARS. I LIVE FOR MY CHANCE TO GET INTO NATURE, TO BE AMIDST THE TREES AND RIVERS, MOUNTAINS AND GLACIERS. THEY ARE PEACEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL AND THEY MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING- AND ISN'T THAT REASON ENOUGH TO SAVE THEM?



HOW TO HELP PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE

CONSERVING HALF THE EARTH

CONSERVING HALF THE EARTH

WHY CONSERVATION?



We are facing the 6th mass extinction- and this one was caused by human activity. By mercilessly exploiting animals and taking away their natural habitats, we have driven millions of species, both flora and fauna, to extinction.

BENEFITS

Biodiversity helps us combat and adapt to climate change. Healthy soil and healthy forests absorb massive amounts of CO2. Species have a safe natural habitat.



HOPE

With 1/2 the earth preserved, we could potentially reverse a lot of the effects of climate change. We would preserve species and increase biodiversity.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Donate to and volunteer with nonprofits, such as the Half-Earth Project and the Nature Conservancy, who are fighting to preserve land.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact your representatives to force them to enact conservation policies. Support sustainable businesses that care about the environment.

START SMALL

Plant trees. Visit conservation sites. Spread the word about the importance of conservation. And don't lose hope!



PLAN:

1. SPREAD POSTERS ALL OVER CAMPUS(IDEALLY, THIS WOULD BE WORLDWIDE, BUT THAT SEEMS A LITTLE IMPRACTICAL).
2. LEAD FREE WORKSHOPS ON WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MOVEMENT, AND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION.
3. CREATE A GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN THAT FOCUSES ON CONSERVATION. USE SAID CAMPAIGN TO A. ELECT ENVIRONMENTALLY FOCUSED CANDIDATES, AND B. PUSH BILLS THAT INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PRESERVED LAND(THINK INCREASED NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS, RECREATION AREAS, ETC). SPREAD GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN WORLDWIDE!
4. CREATE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO DONATE MONEY TO CONSERVATION NONPROFITS(IE. HALF EARTH PROJECT, NATURE CONSERVANCY, ETC.)
5. FIX ALL OF THE PROBLEMS. THERE ARE PROBABLY A MILLION STEPS I DON'T HAVE, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHALLENGE LET'S SAY WE MADE IT! WOOHOO!

FUTURE:

HALF OF THE EARTH IS PRESERVED. THERE ARE MORE FORESTS, GRASSLANDS, PROTECTED PARTS OF THE OCEAN, AND MOUNTAINS THAN EVER BEFORE. ANIMALS ARE THRIVING, NO LONGER ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION. PLANT SPECIES ARE MORE DIVERSE AND NOT HOMOGENEOUS, MAKING THEM MUCH HARDIER AND MORE ADAPTABLE TO DISEASE AND NATURAL DISASTER. THE OCEANS HAVE BEGUN TO REPOPULATE. THE SOIL, NO LONGER BEING OVERWORKED BY INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE, IS PRODUCING HEALTHIER PLANTS AND ABSORBING MORE CARBON THAN EVER BEFORE. THE TREES ARE DOING LIKEWISE- THEY ARE TAKING IN A HUGE AMOUNT OF CARBON DIOXIDE. IN ADDITION TO CONSERVATION, THE EARTH HAS WISED UP AND NOW PRODUCES ALMOST ZERO GREENHOUSE GASES. THE EARTH HAS EXPERIENCED SOME UNAVOIDABLE WARMING, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS EXPECTED. THE REINTRODUCTION OF MANY PLANTS HAS HELPED PREVENT SOME OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE- FOR EXAMPLE, SOME SALT-WATER FORESTS HAVE HELPED REDUCE EROSION AND MADE THE EFFECTS OF WEATHER DISASTERS Milder. PEOPLE ARE APPRECIATING NATURE MORE THAN THEY HAVE IN A VERY LONG TIME- THEY HAVE BEGUN TO BE MORE IN TUNE WITH THE EARTH AND LESS CONCERNED WITH THE DAILY GRIND. OUR WORLD ISN'T PERFECT- WE HAVE ALREADY MESSED IT UP TO MUCH TO HAVE ZERO CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR ACTIONS, BUT WE ARE GETTING THERE. NATURE IS THRIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A VERY LONG TIME- AND THAT IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE.

Brooke Crouch

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Messenger

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Shortcuts

- PGC 2018 17
- UPC Presents: Hall...

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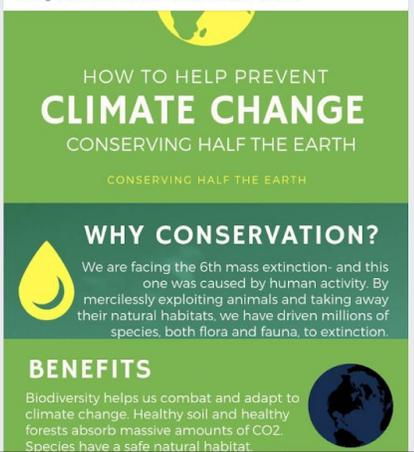
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Brooke Crouch
Just now

This goal, although ambitious, is possible- and think about the wonderful benefits it would have if it were realized. We all have to do our part to conserve the earth. What will you do?
Turning Green Klean Kanteen PlasticPollutes #PGC2018



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UPC Presents: Hallow... at 7:30 PM

Friend Requests

- Morgen L-s
Jennifer Locasale-Crouch is a mutual friend.
Confirm Friend
- Misyy C Evans
Jennifer Locasale-Crouch is a mutual friend.
Confirm Friend
- Deborah C Nolen
Jennifer Locasale-Crouch is a mutual friend.
Confirm Friend

Sponsored



Girlfriend Collective
girlfriend.com
Recycle like you mean it. We make our leggings and bras from recycled water bottles, which

English (US) · Español · Português (Brasil) · Français (France) · Deutsch

Chat

- Dana Raphael 1h
- Jennifer Locasale-Crouch 1