

Serious Environmental Problems

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What kind of environmental problems can you think of: air pollution, deforestation, plastic pollution, and abnormal weather? There are more problems that need to be solved around us. Out of these environmental problems, I think air pollution and plastic pollution are the top two serious ones. I have some reasons for each.

First, I will talk about the air pollution problem. It is caused by our social activities, for example, cars and factories. They are indispensable for our everyday lives, but are making our air dirty. These lead to acid rain, which melts a lot of things like forests, and also leads to affecting our respiratory system in a bad way. I think it's really hard for those who already have respiratory diseases, like asthma, to live in such circumstances. There are about 4.5 million asthma patients in Japan. To make their lives and our lives safer, we need to change our minds and make actions. For instance, I know it is not an easy thing, but we should use electric cars or bicycles instead of the normal gas cars.

Next, I'm going to talk about the second problem, plastic pollution. I think a lot of people know that plastic is not being recycled. They are being swept away into the ocean most of the time. Fish mistake those plastic pieces for food and swallow them. The scary thing is that we eat those "plastic fish" without noticing. We can't digest them so it accumulates inside our body. I know that plastics are very useful, like plastic bags and PET bottles, but there are more demerits behind the merits. In Japan, plastic bags have been charged so that many people would bring their own bags. I think these little steps are very important to solve a large problem. We have to say "No" to receiving plastic bags and keep in mind the 3R's: Recycle, Reuse, Reduce.

These are the environmental problems that I focused on. Environmental problems sound like a big thing and we might think they are not problems we can handle and that nothing really affects it, but that is not true. Each of our little steps towards solving the problem is important and it will become a big step in the future. We are not alone, so let's cooperate with each other and make a bright future for ourselves and those who come after us.