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When I saw the waterfall glistening, when I peeked at the trailhead when I saw the leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red slowly falling, this is when I knew: I wanted to do something to help Pennsylvania! Hi, I am Anna and I go to Green Woods Charter School. There are many ways to keep Pennsylvania beautiful. Some include litter pickup or litter control, Reduce, Reusing, Recycle, trying to help keep all three types of pollution in check, and lastly trying to keep greenhouse gasses under control. I plan to walk to places instead of driving, I also plan to bring reusable containers, and frankly just keep learning about this topic in general. You can do many simple things that all have big impacts!

Like I said there are many ways to keep Pennsylvania beautiful, but let's break each one down even more. Some ways to keep greenhouse gasses under control include adjusting your thermostat. This might sound basic but if you "change your thermostat three degrees down in the winter and three degrees up in the summer, you will reduce carbon emissions by about 1,050 pounds per year." Another way to reduce greenhouse gases is using energy-saving light bulbs. If every American household changed one old light bulb with an energy-efficient one, we could reduce global warming pollution by about 90 billion pounds in the lifetime of that light bulb. Last but not least, if you wash your clothing in cold water rather than warm you can save 550 pounds of greenhouse gas waste, and if you line-dry clothing you are saving even more waste! Thus all of these ways will produce way less greenhouse gasses, decreasing global warming (when greenhouse gases get trapped in the atmosphere and slowly heat the earth).

Litter pickup is a classic way to help keep Pennsylvania beautiful and frankly the whole world. I bet you have heard about a thousand times to pick up litter in your neighborhood, and you should! "If we spent just one hour today picking up trash, you would potentially remove thousands of pieces of trash, beautifying the area while also protecting wildlife, plant life, waterways, soil, and ecosystems from toxic and dangerous chemicals and materials they shouldn't be introduced to." Another way to reduce trash/plastic waste is to bring reusable containers for lunch; single-use containers produce millions of pounds of plastic a year. Imagine this, if you weigh 100 pounds the amount of plastic waste would be 10,000 times your weight! A third way to reduce plastic waste is simply to recycle. In the United States, only about 5% of recyclable plastic is recycled! Overall picking up litter and trash will help beautify and create a less dangerous area for animals, plants, and even humans.

Next up is pollution. Pollution is one of the main things harming the environment and it prevents us from having the most beautiful Pennsylvania. There are three main types of pollution, water pollution, air pollution, and land pollution. One of the main causes of water pollution comes from sewage. Household sewage in water brings chemicals like nitrogen and

phosphorus into the water. Air pollution is the contamination of air from any chemical. Air pollution is caused by greenhouse gasses, motor vehicles, and industrial factories. If you drive one mile you produce 0.74 pounds of air pollution (CO<sub>2</sub>); although this doesn't sound like a lot, if you drive 30 miles a day you are producing 22.2 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>! A way to help reduce your carbon footprint is eliminating unnecessary car use. If you cut out 10 miles a week you can save exactly 8 pounds of air pollution. Land pollution is when an area of land gets contaminated by waste. Land pollution is simply liquid or solid waste that affects the earth's surface. An example of land pollution is litter, for example, plastic waste. Land pollution/litter is fatal for many animals and plants, land pollution can rot away the roots of trees or plants. It can also kill animals if they mistake the trash for food. Some main causes of land pollution are factories because they produce toxic waste and chemicals. Even though you in general can not stop factories, you can vote for laws that help prevent factory waste! To sum it all up there are three types of pollution, water, air, and land, and they are all bad for the environment, which is why we should do something about it!

My family already does some great things to help Pennsylvania. When I or my parents go to the grocery store we look for signs that the food is organic and non-GMO and that that item has recyclable packaging. It being organic means it was not grown with any pesticides, pesticides can get into rivers and lakes causing a 'dead zone' a place where there is overgrown algae that takes all of the oxygen away from animals and other plants. I plan to walk or ride my bike instead of getting a ride to places under one mile away. This would save around a pound of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution each time. Another thing I plan to do that you should do too is bring reusable containers for lunch, this will minimize the amount of plastic that I use. Lastly, I am going to continue to learn more about this subject. This sounds silly but you have to know to change your actions and the world. In conclusion, there are many ways to keep Pennsylvania beautiful, many things that you can do, and things that I plan to do, and all of these changes have a BIG impact on Pennsylvania, and the whole world!