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Position Papers for:

The United Nations Environmental
Programme



Delegation from: Brazil
Represented by: Beachwood High School
Committee: United Nations Environment Programme

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Programme

The issues before the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are: (1) Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe and (2) Protecting Against Deforestation and Forest Degradation. Brazil believes in furthering discussions regarding these issues and working toward resolutions which will prove both effective and long-lasting.

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

As a result of the lack of education systems in recycling and reuse, the amount of waste produced across the globe continues to increase and threaten global stability. Materials that are non-recycled and non-reused often end up in landfills, and those that are wrongly recycled may lead to contamination. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is thus presently concerned with elevating public awareness about how to correctly recycle and reuse products; it must be a significant focus due to the universal scale of the issue of climate change. According to the UNEP, the global amount of solid waste per year stands at approximately 11.2 billion tons, with Brazil contributing approximately 62 million tons. Brazil strongly advocates for education regarding waste management. It is indispensable that the international community works together to make recycling and reusing processes more accessible and understandable for the greater public, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged groups who may be most at risk of the effects of climate change.

The Federative Republic of Brazil, the largest country in South America, understands its heavy role in reducing excessive waste. Only 62% of the Brazilian population has access to regular garbage collection. However, Brazil has demonstrated active environmental reform in recent years, bringing educational programs to and increasing the collection of recyclable material in large cities. In 2012, Sao Paulo and 12 other cities adopted laws to prohibit people to shop in grocery stores with reusable bags. While international nonprofits have stated only about 2% of waste is recycled in Brazil, the Brazilian Plastic Industry Association (Abiplast) is aware of possible data inaccuracies, and the plastic recycling rate has actually been proven to be as high as 25%. Brazil proudly hosted the Best of Both Worlds Conference on Environmental Education in 2014 and believes in sharing cross-cultural practices in order to formulate resolutions to the prominent issue of waste.

Brazil urges other nations to recognize the issues that stem from the lack of education regarding recycling and reuse. With this in mind, the delegation of Brazil sets forth a general yet comprehensive three-pronged plan to provide long-term resolutions. This includes: (1) the use of data and technology, (2) educational curriculum and public service announcements (PSAs), and (3) incentives for citizens. Brazil recommends reviewing its past actions regarding environmental education for a background with which to move forward. Firstly, countries must start utilizing technology to strengthen their educational programs concerning recycling and reuse; reliable databases may also stimulate greater public understanding and better communication between local and national institutions. Secondly, Brazil supports universal curriculum and PSAs across the globe, which may be enforced at a municipal level. Thirdly, citizens should be incentivized to recycle and reuse in order to increase their rates of doing so. Even with all Brazil has done, the delegation of Brazil acknowledges its fiscal limits and the need for collaborative international efforts, has set forward an agenda open to discussion, and hopes to work with other countries in the rest of the committee regarding this issue.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Recently, countries across the globe have been overwhelmed by deforestation and forest degradation, especially in Brazil's cherished Amazon Rainforest, which has decreased in size by over 17% in the past half-decade. Just this year, the Amazon was affected by larger-than-normal dry season fires. While Brazil's military was successfully engaged to fight the wildfires, the situation may not be the last of its kind. Deforestation and forest degradation threaten to pose significant international burdens on natural resources, including food and vegetation, and the climate. Thus, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) must be determined to preserve the world's forests according to Agenda 21, the action plan from the Earth Summit held in Brazil in 1992 which set forth mechanisms for sustainable development. Realizing that it is of utmost importance for the whole international body to aid the world's forests, Brazil is committed to ensuring protection for its forests while maintaining its sovereignty over the Amazon.

As a country that contributes to South American progress in both political and economic terms, Brazil has taken a large amount of action regarding deforestation and forest degradation while maintaining economic freedom. Brazil's environmental agency upholds President Jair Bolsonaro's belief that protecting the environment should not be an obstacle to economic growth. In fact, economic development may be the most effective means of protecting the Amazon. Recently, Brazil secured an agreement with the US to promote sustainable private-sector development in the Amazon. Still, being home to 60% of the Amazon, Brazil recognizes that the Amazon Rainforest is a carbon sink responsible for mitigating the effects of climate change; Brazil's environment minister, Ricardo Salles, has reaffirmed time and time again that Brazil is committed to combating illegal deforestation. Also earlier this year, Brazil was one of seven South American countries who signed a pact to develop a disaster response network and satellite monitoring to protect the Amazon river basin. The delegation of Brazil urges the global community to not exaggerate the situation in the Amazon and, instead, to focus on climate issues spread across the globe. Having one of the most strict environmental legislation in the world, Brazil emphasizes that it is possible for forest protection and economic development to peacefully coexist.

Brazil has demonstrated its determination to prevent deforestation and forest degradation. Brazil presents a three-pronged plan regarding how to address this issue; that is, (1) reasonable monitoring of illegal environmental activities, (2) promotion of sovereignty and economic freedom, and (3) initiation of public informational campaigns. Firstly, Brazil stresses that illegal deforestation activities, such as logging, ranching, and mining, should be met with certain measures of regulation; those practicing illegal activity should be persecuted. In addition, commercial activity in protected areas should be policed. Secondly, Brazil plans to dissociate economic growth from environmental degradation and fight for its sovereignty over the Amazon. Thirdly, in order to reduce the societal misunderstandings of the realities of deforestation, Brazil advocates for accessible education and training for the public to learn factually accurate information. While regulating radical left-wing media, Brazil hopes to teach the public about the possibilities of sustainable economic development and its unwavering commitment to protecting the Amazon. The Brazilian delegation looks forward to in-depth discussion and hopes to reach effective and impactful resolutions that will benefit the lives of forests around the globe.

Delegation: The People's Republic of China
Represented by: Solon High School

Position Paper for United Nations Environment Programme

The issues ahead of this Committee are the *Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe and Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation*. The People's Republic of China is committed to finding the implementation of education systems and to protect against deforestation around the world.

I. Discussing Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

During the Xi Jinping administration, the Chinese government has been strictly pushing the plan to recycle everything possible. China had been aiding countries around the globe for several years until the opportunity was taken advantage of and our restrictions were bypassed illegally. China had been importing around 700,000 tonnes of plastic every year from around the globe but since the government shut down this importation January of 2018. The materials had to high levels of waste and the Chinese government found the system beneficial and harmful to the public.

In 2000, China implemented 8 pilot cities to try out recycling programs as they stress the harm that the lack of recycling will cause to the public. Shanghai, the first major city in this program to increase recycling infrastructure, has 23 million people and they will be taught to organize their trash in four categories: recyclable material, dangerous goods, kitchen goods, and other wastes. The teachers will consist of 1,700 instructors as well as an app to help individuals. President Xi Jinping has found a very effective way of getting individuals to recycle correctly as their is a fine for misclassification materials \$30 for individuals, \$7,200 for commercial entities and, \$70,000 for recyclers and possible loss of their license. Extra punishments consist of reduction of credit score, preventing purchase of flights and lower chances of sending children to better public schools. These systems allow China to manage waste and recyclables as well as teach the public about how to recycle. This allows brings China economic opportunity as the recycling sector is open for investments that will go to investing further education and infrastructure to recycle.

The People's Republic of China believes that their education system is benefitting the public through less waste around as well as educating them on the benefits and how to recycle. China wants to spend more on their recycling infrastructure and are focusing on national recycling rather than international education. The People's Republic of China tried to aid outside nations but were taken advantage of and will only focus on furthering Chinese infrastructure.

II. Discussing Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

The globe as a whole understands the severity of how deforestation is hurting the ozone layer, and species going extinct. An example of this is The Paris Climate Agreement in which 136 countries ratified and 8 countries have signed it. The People's Republic of China is one of the nations that have ratified the agreement. China has been planting enough trees to make up for the lackluster conservation efforts of its continents peers such as Indonesia. China will prioritize its' own conservation but it willing to aid other nations afterwards. Earth is losing around 19 million acres of trees every year and the U.N hasn't done enough to combat this. China believes the UN plans for forests between 2007-2030 consists of increasing amount of trees around the world to 3%.

China itself has been quickly burning through trees with near 500,000 square kilometers of forests being cut down. To offset The People's Republic of China are planting enough trees to cover up with Asia and we have banned logging in natural forests. The People's Republic of China also are spending \$10 billion on restoration projects and one billion to extend the amount of forests that will be planted on. China has also imposed a tax on chopsticks and wood utilities to further discourage buying too many and making more money for environmental purposes. The People's Republic of China has pushed to help grow trees for the entire world and will continue to do so. China has also been a victim of desertification and soil erosion. The People's Republic of China has yet to find a true solution to this and have lost six million acres of arable land to too much salt. Nations around the world have been leaders in deforestation such as Indonesia and Brazil who cut near to 78 million acres of trees every year for economic gains. These countries are the nations that should be punished for excess tree cutting and also should have to plant more trees for restoration efforts.

The People's Republic of China believes that the United Nations should work together to find a solution to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide and increase the amount spent on environmental restoration. China has been increasing spending on environmental conservation with spending such as the \$10 billion on restoration efforts and the additional billion dollars for forests; China believes that other nations around the world should use Xi Jinping's policies to help restoration efforts around the world. It is evident that only Xi Jinping and China believe in restoration efforts and that nations follow China. China is a leader in all aspects around the globe and we will lead the world to a better and more environmentally friendly world.

Delegation from: République De Côte d'Ivoire
Represented By: Beachwood High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Program

The issues to be discussed before the United Nations Environment Program include the Implementation of Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe and protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation. The République de Côte d'Ivoire is in favour of this discussion on these important topics, and is open to action on these topics to address this issue.

I: Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

As the world continues to move forward with the increasing effects of climate change, recycling has become ever more important to combat this threat. The act of recycling has been recorded as far back as the time of Plato in ancient Greece. Recycling is an important part of the fight against climate change today, but the effectiveness of current day recycling is questionable. Currently, 91% of plastic is not recycled, and 18 billion pounds of plastic ends up in the ocean each year. There is a growing collection of non-decomposable material called the Great Pacific Plastic that currently is made up of 80,000 metric tons and 1.3 trillion pieces of plastic. Plastic takes 400 years to decompose naturally, meaning it has an extreme and long lasting negative effect on our environment if thrown out. Only 12% of all plastic ever produced has been disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Plastic in the ocean kills over 100,000 aquatic lifeforms each year, greatly damaging the ecosystems of the ocean, which are beginning to collapse in some places. If the trends of throwing out plastic continues, by 2050, 12 billion metric tons of plastic will be contained within landfills. It is imperative that action is taken to teach citizens all across the world about the importance and proper strategies to recycle, so that people can continue to live on our planet without the terrible consequences of climate change.

The government of Côte d'Ivoire recognizes the importance of recycling, and therefore the education of recycling correctly, to aid in the fight against the serious threat that is climate change. Climate change is perhaps the most important issue the planet faces in the present day, and Côte d'Ivoire, with 590 kilometers of coastline, will be critically affected by this issue. Therefore, the Ivorian government has taken steps to ensure the populace is educated on recycling and to increase the levels of recycling in Côte d'Ivoire. In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire supported an amendment to the 1992 Basel Convention which would provide for a decrease in plastic pollution. Côte d'Ivoire also ratified the 2001 Stockholm Convention to restrict and eliminate persistent organic pollutants, or compounds that are resistant to environmental decomposition, like plastic. The Ivorian government has supported the AfricWaste project and allowed it's process for mass recycling to be tested in Abidjan, the economic capital of Côte d'Ivoire. Another important step the government of Côte d'Ivoire has taken in the realm of recycling is their partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund and with Colombian enterprise Conceptos Plasticos to produce classrooms in Côte d'Ivoire out of modular plastic bricks created from recycled material. Not only will this project help increase recycling and minimize the amount of plastic pollution, but it will also help with the 15,000 additional classrooms Côte d'Ivoire needs to educate it's child population. The project includes the construction of a factory in Côte d'Ivoire to produce the plastic bricks, which will additionally provide jobs for the populace. As of July 29, 2019, 9 schools have already been produced, and many more are planned.

The Delegation Of Côte d'Ivoire stresses the importance of fighting the pollution of our environment with recyclable materials. As stated before, unthinkably enormous amounts of recyclable trash, specifically plastic, is now polluting the oceans of our planet, and even more is dumped into the oceans every year. Côte d'Ivoire believes that these pollutants can be greatly reduced through projects like the Ivorian Government has supported with Conceptos Plasticos and the UNCEP. Projects like that one could greatly contribute to cleaning plastic waste and preventing more from polluting the planet, as well as serve as a great opportunity for development and jobs in undeveloped and

developing countries. If a project like the one in Côte d'Ivoire is implemented on a larger scale, it would go a long way to help clear our world of trash pollution, as well as increase the levels of recycling across the planet.

II: Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

Between the years 1990 and 2016, 1.3 million kilometers of forest covered lands were deforested, and our species has cut down an estimated 46% of trees in the world since deforestation began. There are many causes of deforestation today, like the logging industry and forest fires. However, the majority of deforestation occurs to clear land for agricultural use. While deforestation can have economic advantages, these massive rates of deforestation are also damaging to the environment in a multitude of ways. Rainforests, like that of the Amazon Rainforest in South America, are extremely diverse regions biologically, home to thousands of species which are often unique to the area. These rainforests fall victim to deforestation the most of all regions on the planet. For example, more than 17% of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed in the past 15 year. However, not only does deforestation damage the environment biologically, but it also contributes to the growing danger of climate change. All forests on Earth together absorb nearly 40% of man made carbon emissions. By cutting down more and more forest each year, the amount of carbon able to be absorbed by trees decreases. Not only that, but the mass deforestation across the planet also releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, around 10.8 billion tonnes each year. It is vitally important that some kind of action to discuss deforestation and its effects.

The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire recognizes the threat that deforestation poses to the planet, and believes it is crucial a discussion is held to address the issue. Côte d'Ivoire itself has been a victim of significant deforestation over its history. From its independence in 1960 to the present, Côte d'Ivoire's forest cover fell from 12 million hectares to only about 3 hectares. The vast majority of this deforested land was cleared for agricultural use, specifically for the growth of cocoa beans. Cocoa beans and products from them make up over 30% of the Ivorian economy, and Côte d'Ivoire supplies one third of the world's cocoa beans. While Côte d'Ivoire has suffered from significant forest loss, the government has and is taking steps to decrease the amount of deforestation in the country. The Ivorian government created the Taï National Park in 1972, saving 4,540 square kilometers of tropical rainforest from destruction. The government of Côte d'Ivoire planned to make further efforts to stop deforestation, but these plans were abandoned after the outbreak of conflict in the country, including two civil wars. With the nation stable after the end of the second civil war in 2011, Côte d'Ivoire has had the opportunity to address deforestation again. Côte d'Ivoire has partnered with the French Republic for sustainable development, and is also currently negotiating a voluntary partnership agreement with the European Union to prevent illegal logging. Internally, Côte d'Ivoire reformed its forest laws in 2013 to make sure areas of rainforest survive in the nation, and is looking to reduce the need for deforestation for agricultural use by implementing sustainable agricultural practices and further land use planning.

The Republic Of Côte d'Ivoire recognizes the issues and threats of deforestation on the planet, but also stresses the importance of forested lands in the economic growth of developing and undeveloped countries. The Ivorian government wishes to stop all deforestation in the nation, but like many other underdeveloped nations, requires this land for economic development. Côte d'Ivoire would be in favour of stricter regulations on deforestation or even a near ban on deforestation, but only if undeveloped and developing nations are guaranteed reparations because of the sacrifice such nations are making in agreeing to leave forests undeveloped. Côte d'Ivoire believes that reparations, in the form of development projects and economic investment, to underdeveloped countries in exchange for stopping deforestation is the best way to prevent further climate change while minimizing the loss of the effects of deforestation on the economy of underdeveloped nations.

Delegation from: Cuba

Represented by: Orange High School

Topic I: Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

Throughout Cuba, new policies on recycling and global improvement are being implemented into the country. Food and plastic waste and global warming are all issues that have been capturing the attention of the government and citizens. Statistics have been gathered, informing people of the issues and what will be done to solve them.

Globally, about 1/3 of food produced for humans is wasted. This means that an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted per year worldwide. By informing the population of these major amounts of waste, global leaders are hoping to push people to be more conscientious of how they use their food. Additionally, 300 million tons of plastic is wasted annually. This is especially damaging to the environment, as only 9% of plastic waste ends up being recycled. For instance, 90% of waste is dumped into landfills in Turkey.

To face these issues, policies have been put into place to add order to society. These attempts began in 2011, where Article 235 was implemented into the Cuban recycling policy. This article is “encouraging increased recycling and added value of recovered products, prioritizing activities of greater economic impact and fewer resources and their re-capitalization, as permitted by the economy,” says the Havana Times. However, the Recycling Companies Union does not have the funds to provide transportation and pickup for the trash. Schools and companies have been educating members and students to implement these habits into daily life. Unfortunately, much more needs to be done to further the progress of these policies and save the planet.

Topic B: Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

Although Cuba does have some problems with deforestation involving poor farming techniques the main reason for deforestation is natural disasters. Natural disasters such as bad storms and hurricanes can lead to devastating forest loss. Thankfully, the government has been working to increase the forest area in Cuba. In 1990 Cuba had 2,054 net forest loss but in 2015 there was a huge net forest expansion of 3,200.

Cuba started reforestation in 1968 with the help of the revolutionary government and local villagers. In the early 1900s people burned trees to make charcoal so by the time of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, nothing was left except for isolated palm trees. These issues led to Cuba launching the reforestation plan. This would improve soil quality which would allow trees

to grow more productively, and also provide important work for people in the area. And so, a terrace planting system was put into place and within 8 years people had planted 6 million trees.

Currently, Cuba is doing much better with the help of this new system and the help of scientists that assisted in determining which Indigenous trees to plant. The Cuban government has said that along with the other types of trees fruit trees should be planted as well to feed the people. Presently, 80% of food eaten in Las Terrazas, (A part of Cuba) is locally grown. All in all Cuba believes that deforestation is a huge problem and Cuba would love to work with other countries to share their new system of reforestation, with the world.

St. Vincent-St. Mary High School
Delegation from: France

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Program

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

In recent years, the issue of man-made waste polluting our natural resources has had a massive uptake in interest from the media, drawing attention specifically to the massive amounts of non biodegradable waste in the oceans, oil spills, the heavy use of pesticides in the environment, and nuclear waste products being disposed of in areas inhabited by wildlife. This new interest has much reason behind it, because according to many recent studies of human activity and ecological impact, our footprint is becoming larger and larger by the year. If patterns like this continue at the current rate, future generations could suffer massively from our actions through things like human-accelerated climate change. This would chiefly affect our water supply through changes in the water cycle of the earth, causing an increase in pollution rates and a decrease in water quality due to overall warmer water on the planet. To combat these issues, nations around the globe have taken up an effort to use fewer resources and create less waste that will be pushed into the environment through mass reuse and recycling of non biodegradable resources.

France has taken large-scale action against mass pollution through nonbiodegradable waste, mainly by completely eliminating the destruction of unsold goods within the market. The French government has outlawed the destruction of goods, for the reason that it not only wastes valuable resources but that it also produces massive amounts of waste products. It was estimated that around eight-hundred-million euros worth of goods were being burned each year, but now that this practice has been outlawed, the goods will reenter the market at a decreased value or be donated to charitable distributors of the goods. On top of this, France plans to implement a penalty system that would increase the cost of packaging items in non-recycled plastic. The goal is to only use recycled plastic nationwide by 2025.

France hopes to establish a plan to expand upon their current policies within the reuse and recycling of waste across the globe, by stopping the destruction of unsold goods on a global scale and massively reducing the amount of plastics produced rather than reused after recycling across the globe. A large part of this effort will be making it abundantly clear through advertising and media campaigns the effect that you will have as an individual through recycling and making an effort for a greener future, showing statistics as examples of what you can do and why you should do it. The education will also expand upon the common definition of climate change, making it more clear what it actually is, the effects it has already had on the environment, and the effects that it will have on the environment should it progress further. France looks forward to making significant progress on this issue on a uniform, global scale, and expresses its hopes for an agreement that can be applied to all nations due to the pressing nature of it.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Almost nineteen-million acres of forest are lost or destroyed every year around the globe. This rate has been nearly constant since the 1960s, when massive amounts of lumber became needed as well as more space for agricultural goods to be grown and produced throughout the entirety of the world. While the main target of destruction and degradation has easily been Brazil's Amazon Rainforest, every continent's forests have been affected at least in part by the impacts humans have had on the environment in the past half-century. Deforestation and degradation have affected the furthest reaches of the globe in Russia, as well as the areas in Africa as well, specifically Sudan. Deforestation is currently occurring at a rate in which it will have an affect on the Earth's climate very soon, according to studies, which will make it exponentially harder to recover the forests we've already lost in recent years.

France has proposed a list of seventeen measures that aim to put a halt to deforestation caused by imports of non-sustainable forest or agricultural products by 2030. This plan includes financial aid to developing nations in order to encourage them to follow the preservation guidelines put proposed by France, and also urges consumers to put a "zero deforestation" label on goods that apply in order to encourage consumers to buy products from companies that do not threaten the forests. Lastly, as part of a newly implemented renewable energy bill, France plans to phase out biofuels containing feedstock that may contribute to deforestation.

France is proposing a two-step approach to handling this issue, which first involves conservation of current forest populations and establishing means to conserve and protect these forests, and then once this is handled effectively and efficiently, rebuilding the destroyed forest populations. In order to do this, France is looking for a non-invasive tactic where every country can address their own personal issues concerning the topic under an established guideline, and nations in need of assistance carrying out these goals can ask for whatever help they might need from member states willing to provide. This will allow each country to address their needs at an appropriate time and pace for themselves economically, with help from outside sources to rebuild forest populations if that is necessary. France hopes to create a plan that is flexible for everyone to follow by mostly their own means, to achieve a greener, cleaner future.

Delegation from: India
Represented by: Beachwood High School

Position Paper for United Nations Environment Programme

The issue at hand is one that has plagued us for centuries. Therefore it is a very important topic and must be discussed in fine detail to come to a coherent conclusion. The Delegation of India is open to collaboration with everyone willing and hopes to find a sustainable solution to the problems at hand.

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

In the past places have for periods of time recycled such as in America in 1776 when rebels recycled materials to produce weapons or in 1865 when the salvation army was founded in Britain and began to recycle. But both of these things have one thing in common; yes they are recycling but there is no real education on the subject. Only recently have countries across the globe started to see the effects of the limited amounts of recycling taking place. Because of this in many places, nobody has realized that education on this topic is of the utmost importance. Education in India has only just begun, which is one of the many reasons why this topic is of utmost importance.

Implementing education in response to reusing and recycling in today's world can prove to have many problems. In past years India has applied the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which is a notable campaign executed by the Government of India. The goal of this operation is to clean up the streets and roads of India and it will be going for the rest of 2019 and it began in 2014. Because India is one of the largest nations we have been recently working to clean up our streets, infrastructure, etc with a large movement for the need to clean up the areas of our nation. In places in northeast India such as Akshar Forum school as well there have been newly implemented systems in various schools where it is mandated that students pay for their tuition in plastic waste. This school is asking each child to bring in twenty plastic items a week to attend because in past years they requested that parents recycle in an initiative but they had little response. This said district has a population of under one million people and yet there are 37 tonnes of garbage a day. Many people have no idea that when burning their garbage it is emitting harmful waste into the earth so since this initiative started a lot of education about it has been sweeping across the land.

India proposes a two-pronged long term plan to help with education in terms of recycling. First, in places such as India, since there is not a strong social awareness about this issue schools will be requested to have at least one class about recycling and how it affects the world today. Additionally said schools will gain knowledge about these issues through annual conferences once a year in specific to be determined places in India and around the world. To implement this education India proposes that a committee will be made to discuss specific details at a later point. The second part of this plan is to promote education for adults as well through ads, events, and talks around the world. Therefore by reaching both children and adults this plan encompasses each need of everyone around the world not just in India.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Forest Degradation

In the past deforestation occurred because the land was needed to build houses and make space and use timber for the construction. But knowing how many of these forests were actually taken down is hard to estimate due to the excessive amounts of grazing from animals. In addition to this about two million square km have been cleared for grazing land for these animals since they originally foraged through everything and brought about forest degradation. Additionally in recent years even more deforestation has occurred all over the world due to both natural occurrences and humans. Because of this, it is important to come together as one and find a long-lasting solution to this myriad of quandaries.

India has in the past not been very forward about this issue but in recent years we have begun initiatives such as the government taking pledges in the past twenty years to stop deforestation, as well as enterprises around India since 2016 to grow more trees in places like Uttar Pradesh. India as well passed the CAMPA law which allows more than 40 thousand rupees to be used to plant trees and stop deforestation. In 2008 India's government announced that they have goals to increase the forest coverage throughout the country. But there are many obstacles surrounding this plan one being that it is hard to find the availability of non forest land to plant more trees and revitalize it. Also, because India is a relatively poor country it can be intrepid to find a conclusive resolution that can fix deforestation and forest degradation without putting the glorious country of India in jeopardy. Therefore India believes in cleaning up and changing our country by making it more beautiful through the constant efforts to combat deforestation in our great country.

India proposes a multi-faceted policy involving holding companies and countries accountable for their actions, spreading knowledge about the issue and as well have more developed countries help those such as India who are unable to fully fix deforestation themselves. To start India would like to request that more developed countries take on the grunt of the work both moneywise and with the helping of planting trees and such. Additionally, to help companies become accountable they should put in place specific policies made by their governments or the UN to transform the producing of their products from wood to cork or recycled cardboard. Finally, India believes that education is the foundation of everything in life which is why it is important to spread awareness of deforestation and how it affects everyone everywhere. This will happen by making sure that schools start programs about deforestation and other similar issues through the use of specific speaking topics that a committee on a later date will make. Therefore, based on the forgoing India believes that this plan will work and we hope to cooperate with others to introduce and succeed in helping combat deforestation and forest degradation.

Delegation from: Japan
Represented by: Chardon High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Program

The issues to be discussed by the United Nations Environmental Program are Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe and Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation. The delegation of Japan strongly encourages the discussion of these topics, in hopes of nearing a resolution to educated the global public on proper recycling techniques and to protect forests and their wildlife.

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

The delegation of Japan recognizes the global issue of managing waste. There are not issues in the amount of food that the world produces, but rather the distribution of this food. With approximately 33% of this food ending in landfills or other forms of waste, people around the world go hungry from a lack of food accessibility. Aside from food waste, by 2050 the world is predicted to have 12 billion metric tons of plastic in its landfills. Japan strives to reduce their contribution to this waste through a series of laws and practices, some of which benefit more than Japan's citizens.

The delegation of Japan has recognized its issues with plastic waste. Despite the low amount of general waste per capita, Japan has been ranked second in the world in terms of plastic waste per capita. By 2030, Japan hopes to reduce the 9.5 million metric tons of plastic waste to a mere quarter. Other laws have already been put in place to help recycle. Japan's Home Appliance Recycling Law, ratified in 2001, has helped salvage useful and valuable parts of televisions, refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioners, things that typically make a large imprint on landfills. Other things, like the Automobile Recycling Law of 2005, have increased incentive for industries to develop eco-friendly cars. The Container and Packaging Recycling law is another example of Japans response and respect for issues it sees presented.

The delegation of Japan believes that to combat these problems, people must be informed on their true impact on the environment. The problem not only lies in lack of recycling, but also improper recycling and reuse techniques. Recycling things that are not supposed to be only contaminates the sample and does harm. The city of Kamikatsu, Japan, citizens and authority have made it a priority to be "zero-waste" by 2020. As of 2017, the city recycled an average of 80% of the total waste, a 60% increase from the national average. This system utilizes 45 categories of waste, effectively reducing improper techniques due to lack of education. The delegation of Japan believes that it is the duty of the United Nations, and the states within, to implement a system of global education of proper recycling and reusing. To do this, the UN can create easily accessible information sources, as to not interfere with state's independent education laws, and possibly help create non-profit organizations that can bring equal opportunity and education on these global issues to the less informed.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

The delegation of Japan strongly believes in the protection of forests and the biodiversity within them. With previous years of devastating treatment to Japan's forests, Japan was rapidly

experiencing deforestation and forest degradation, the loss of a forest's density. These practices have been turned around completely. The act of deforestation is motivated primarily by demand for products and financial gain. A forest, which can be logged and turning into acres of agricultural land, can provide people with food and products necessary to produce other things. Despite this, it is necessary to see that the negative impacts deforestation has outweighs the supply that potential crops produce, and the monetary value obtained by selling these groups. Forests are a key node of biodiversity and carbon-reducing processes. The Japanese people faced a struggle to obtain clean, reliable water without forests.

Japan has made several attempts to reestablish the forests. Once law, termed the "Law Concerning the Promotion of Distribution and Use of Legally-Harvested Timber, etc." focuses less on reducing illegal timber trade, but providing incentive for legal timber trade. Throughout past years, Japan has made attempts to plant mass numbers of trees and combat the damage done in both the present and past.

The delegation of Japan knows the importance of protecting forests, not only in Japan, but also globally. To do this, incentive to keep forests must be present. This could be done with the improved distribution of food to begin with. Also, biodiversity is of clear importance. One or two species of trees cannot do the job, but rather a plethora of species to encourage wildlife.

Delegation: Norway

School: Chardon High School

Position Paper for United Nations Environment Program

The issues before the United Nations Environment Program are as follows: Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe and Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation. The delegation of Norway is committed to finding a solution that best fits the needs of the current environmental crises.

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

Being one of the greatest threats to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, landfills all over the world are filled with over 1.3 billion tons of waste each year. This amount is expected to increase to 2.2 billion tons by 2025. The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that over 75% of waste in America could be recycled, but only 30% of that waste gets recycled. Implementing recycling systems in schools gives the opportunity to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills, teach kids about the importance of recycling, and instill a sense of responsibility in students.

In 2017, a Cuvier's beaked whale washed up on the shores of the Norwegian island of Sotra. The whale was in terrible health and had to be put down. Over 30 objects were found in the stomach of the whale. Over 100,000 animals are killed each year from plastic waste pollution in oceans. To combat this and the overflow of landfills, Norway has installed a program that recycles 97% of all the plastic that is used. Less than 1% of Norway's waste will end up in the environment, and most of the plastic that is being recycled is such high quality material, that it can be used again in drink bottles. In addition to this plan, Norway has been able to implement an extremely successful recycling plan for schools in Bergen. The plan was developed in 2006 by the Municipality of Bergen, and it aims to teach students to understand and take care of nature and the planet. The teaching of recycling is implemented into everyday studies and students in levels 4-7 also have the opportunity to take part in 5 week workshops which teach through waste handling and disposal. Students in level 6 also have the opportunity to apply for jobs as members in the environment patrol, who sort garbage from the classrooms and ensure a functioning process between the schools and the waste handling company's collection stations. Since 2006, the system has achieved many goals including providing work for all grade levels to help aid the development of a system for sorting waste.

The delegation of Norway believes that in order to reduce the amount of waste in landfills and aid in the process of recycling plastic waste, recycling systems should be implemented into everyday education. The schools of Bergen have adequately proven recycling systems to be beneficial to students, schools and the environment. The delegation of Norway would like to see schools all over the world follow the example set by Bergen schools to benefit the overall well being of the planet.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

Global deforestation has been a substantial threat to climate change and the overall well being of society for hundreds of years. Over half of the world's forests have been destroyed, and much of what remains is damaged. The deforestation crisis is beginning to reach a point of no return, where humans are unable to

replace what has been destroyed. As commercial industries and gang leaders continue to destroy the Earth's forests, they are also destroying the existence of many species and the stability of climate.

Norway has been working with other countries to reduce the amount of forests that are destroyed all over the world. In 2008 Norway paid Brazil 1 billion USD to reduce deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. By 2015, Norway fulfilled its 2008 commitment and Brazil had reduced deforestation by over 75%. In 2015, Brazil and Norway's governments agreed to continue their partnership until 2020. In May of 2010, Norway entered a partnership with Indonesia to help reduce emissions from deforestation in Indonesia. Over the next few years, Norway continued to support this partnership by paying 1 billion USD to Indonesia. In 2018 Norway donated over 15 million USD to an Interpol task force dedicated to investigating crimes related to deforestation. These funds have allowed Interpol to expand its task force from 6 detectives to 15 detectives. This task force will investigate major leaders of gangs and large companies who perform forest crimes. Over the last decade, Norway has been working to fight deforestation in other countries, but Norway has also been fighting deforestation in their own country. In the early 19th century Norway was exporting vast amounts of timber to the rest of Europe. By the late 1800s, Norway realized that many of their forests were in immense danger. Since then, Norway has been measuring their forests. This has helped keep track of which areas are healthier, which are growing faster, how much of the forests can be sustainably logged. In addition to this, Norway has banned deforestation and has stated that any product that contributes to deforestation will not be used in the country.

The delegation of Norway would like to see other countries take action in reducing the amount of deforestation across the globe. In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect habitats and protect endangered species, forests need to be preserved at all costs. Norway and the countries that it has partnered with have shown great improvement of forest health and a significant drop in greenhouse gas emissions. The delegation of Norway would like to see more countries provide laws that prohibit deforestation.

Russia

United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)

Fuchs Mizrachi School

The issues before the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) are implementing education systems in recycling and reuse across the globe and protecting against deforestation and global forest degradation. With a population of more than 146 million people and a land mass of more than 176 million square kilometers covering more than 1/8 of the planet's inhabitable land, the Russian Federation supports international cooperation to address these important environmental topics.

A. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

It is the responsibility of the Environment Committee of the United Nations to both preserve and protect environments across the globe to ensure public health and security. Around the world, both developing and undeveloped countries are struggling to produce effective methods to recycle reusable material. Many countries have turned to simply throwing reusable items into landfills or simply burning them, both methods that can greatly impact the health and safety of residents locally and worldwide. As a result, an estimated 91% of plastic is not recycled. With its slow degradation rate, most plastic littered into forest, oceans or landfills have been or will sit for 400 years.

While some countries face the dilemma of cost, others simply fail to appreciate the importance of this issue. The bottom line is that the amount of recyclable material that is unsafely disposed worldwide is unacceptable.

In 2017 Russian recycling programs were failing their citizens. Residents of Moscow, Volokolamsk and other cities within Russia took to the streets in opposition to horrific local landfills which seemingly caused respiratory ailments, rashes and other conditions hospitalizing children. While the European Union overall recycles and uses 40% of its waste and converts 20% into reusable energy, Russia only sorts through 4% of its total waste. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990, our recycling program became crippled. Increased production and consumerism between 2000 and 2015 meant that Russian landfills doubled in cubic meters from 151 million to 282 million cubic meters. These overflowing landfills are diminishing the air capacity and continue to negatively impact the Russian environment.

With the implementation of new programs and strategies within the country, Russia believes we can turn around both our recycling methods and benefit other efforts around the globe.

Russia believes that it is crucial that the Environmental Committee produces a two-stage educational solution to tackling the mass recycling dilemma facing the planet.

First, it is crucial that with mass economic disparity between first world countries and developing countries we encourage programs that are both cost effective and accessible to all. Therefore, Russia suggests that on a small-scale level, we implement a wider diversity of recycling bins to eliminate the simple discarding of all recyclable objects into the same bin trash. This small-scale implementation of 5

different bins for plastic, glass, paper, cardboard and aluminum will create a quicker and more effective method for recycling industries as the material will be better sorted before they enter the facilities.

Second, Russia suggests that we reestablish Kyoto Protocol created in 1997 which created the program called “Joint Implementation.” This program — which incentivizes the reduction of carbon admission in return for a global currency that can be traded and sold — will both reduce the amount of greenhouse gases admitted and reward those who make this reduction. The incentive that Russia believes that this committee should apply to this program is that the monetary reward that these countries receive for reducing carbon admission be used to fund local school programs that educate children on the cruciality of recycling. With a more local and large-scale solution applicable to all countries, Russia believes through this Environmental Committee, we can greatly reduce the number of reusable objects thrown away and create a more educated, greener and safer future for generations to come.

B. Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

It is the responsibility of the Environment Committee of the United Nations to both preserve and protect the environments across the globe to ensure public health and security. Countless countries are struggling to preserve and fight deforestation, especially when that country relies heavily on these forests as natural resources.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, between 2010 to 2015, the global forest has shrunk by an annual of 3.3 million hectares. This rapid degradation is tremendously impactful on countries dependent on forest resources, wild species, and our climate. With the decreasing amount of biodiversity and increasing amount of carbon released into the atmosphere, the global destruction of forests is a crucial issue that must be dealt with rapidly and effectively.

The recent issue of global forests degradation is extremely important to Russia. Holding one-fifth of the world’s timber stock, playing a crucial role in stabilizing carbon admissions and regulating water balance, it is vital that Russia regulates its forests. As a result, Russia works tirelessly to ensure that they maintain their forests and protect these environments. Through the International Union of Conservation of Nature, Russia has established internal guidelines to regulate the reduction of their forests. Russia passed the 2007 Forest Code to combat illegal logging and delegate forest business and logging. Russia has established many policies and programs to combat this issue to ensure and maintain their crucial forests.

Based upon the success of its own programs to date, Russia believes that the implementation of the same programs globally will help limit the amount of deforestation. With the aid of the IUCN, Russia has been able to establish programs that aid communities dependent on forests to find non timber resources and support their economies. With broader implementation larger of these programs across different countries, this committee can greatly reduce the amount of forests that destroyed. As these programs themselves have proven to create a great supply of jobs in protecting forests, not only will this method help reduce the excessive destruction of natural resources, but will also aid economies and communities by creating jobs and producing revenue through securing wildlife and protecting land. Through the Russian model and the use of successful and constructive programs, Russia is confident that our Environment Committee

will greatly reduce the amount deforestation across the globe and produce a healthy and greener future for generations to come.

Delegation from: The Kingdom of Spain
Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Program

The issues before the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) include: Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe; and Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation. The delegation of the Kingdom of Spain is committed to the implementation of education on reusing and recycling products as well as protecting the world against deforestation and the integrity of any current forests.

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

Greenhouse gasses are killing the environment and are heating the atmosphere at an unnaturally high level. Greenhouse gasses primarily originate from stationary, decomposing waste in landfills, amongst a myriad of other sources. In 2016, 242 million tonnes of plastic waste was produced, the equivalent to 24 trillion plastic water bottles, which was only 12% of the waste generated that year. In 2018, over 2 billion tonnes of waste was produced, with over 90% of that waste being freely dumped or burned at landfills in low-income countries. If the world continues to generate waste at this increasing rate, over the next 30 years, global waste production will increase by 70%. The Kingdom of Spain believes that all countries should take part in reducing, reusing, and recycling products, and the further education of the public on this topic.

The Kingdom of Spain has made considerable efforts to raise its percentage of waste recycled in the past 20 years. In 2001, 21% of waste was recycled in the Kingdom of Spain, increasing to 33% in 2010. In 2018, only 43.3% of waste produced was recycled, compared to the 56.7% of waste directly deposited to landfills. The Kingdom of Spain is currently below the 50% average proposed by the European Union's Waste Framework Directive for 2020. The Kingdom of Spain has deployed many efforts to increase its waste recycling rates, including deploying National Municipal Solid Waste Management Plans, upgrading recycling facilities, separating the collection of different recyclables, and introducing a Landfill tax in highly populated regions. Although the Kingdom of Spain has made considerable headway in recent years, there is still much more that needs to be done.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Spain hopes to create considerable headway in regards to recycling and reusing products during this committee. During this committee, the Kingdom of Spain hopes to work with other delegations to implement educational systems worldwide to increase awareness of recycling. The delegation of the Kingdom of Spain would also hope to create a universal waste management system that all nations can use cohesively, with the main focus on the environment, bringing together the worldwide attempt to save the planet before it is too late.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

Deforestation and global forest degradation has been one of the world's most pressing issues for centuries. Not only does deforestation and forest degradation create soil erosion, generates the losses of numerous species, and contributes to a disturbance of native peoples, but it also contributes to the increasing global greenhouse gasses crisis. The loss of forests and degradation contribute to 12%-17% of the world's preexisting greenhouse gasses as forests themselves serve as constituents for the environment by absorbing and storing the gasses within themselves. Over 300 billion tonnes of greenhouse gasses are stored in trees, which is over 40 times the gasses emitted from fossil fuels. Within the next 100 years, it has been projected that all of the world's forests will become nonexistent, which would create innumerable issues within the environment and negatively impact the quality of human life. The Kingdom of Spain believes that this issue is not an issue and is instead a crisis, and insists that all countries work together to stop this before its effects cannot be reversed.

The Kingdom of Spain has made extensive attempts in past years to stop deforestation and forest degradation. The Kingdom of Spain was primarily a country consisting of farmers and shepherds, resulting in an alarming amount of areas being barren of natural resources and where forest degradation had taken place. Beginning in 1867, the Kingdom of Spain has recognized the effect of deforestation and forest degradation on its land. From 2000-2012 alone, the Kingdom of Spain has lost over 1.16 million hectares of forest, which is the equivalent to an 11% decrease in forests since 2000. This also has led to over 295 million tonnes of carbon dioxide to be emitted into the atmosphere. To combat this, the Kingdom of Spain gained over 448,000 hectares of forest from 2001-2012 alone, contributing 0.56% to the global total of tree and forest cover. The Kingdom of Spain recognizes the amount of damage that has already been inflicted upon the earth and has actively taken action in the past decades.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Spain wishes to construct a way to combat deforestation and forest degradation during this committee. During this committee, the delegation of the Kingdom of Spain desires to work with other delegations to create an environmentally conscious way to stop this increasing crisis and to deescalate it as quickly as possible. The expansion of greenhouse gasses gains with each passing day, and the delegation of the Kingdom of Spain wishes to find a comprehensive way to implement a solution for all countries to consider for the future with a focus on the environment and saving any trees, animals, or land that has not been destroyed yet.

Delegation of: Sweden

Represented by: Chardon High School

Position Paper for United Nations Environment Program

The issues before the United Nations Environment Program are: Implementing education systems in recycling and reuse across the globe and protecting against deforestation and global forest degradation. The delegation of Sweden is committed to cooperating with other nations in order to resolve these issues.

Topic A: Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

In our current world, the amount of waste produced across the globe has been an astounding and ongoing problem. This is partially because the lack of education pertaining to recycling and reusing waste goods throughout the world. While certain countries like Germany and Austria have around 60% recycling rates, large countries such as the United States and Japan have 34% and 21% recycling rates respectively. Sweden has a recycling rate of over 50% and has been known to be one of the best recycling countries on the planet. However this does not mean the problem does not exist in Sweden. Despite Sweden being one of the best recycling countries, there is always room for improvement for situations like these. Sweden's great recycling rate is not just a coincidence. The country highly advocates for recycling and reusing resources in its schools and universities. The children in Sweden are taught to recycle from a young age which carries along with them as they grow older. Also, recycling centers can be found just about anywhere in Sweden. Recycling and saving the environment has been a large part of Sweden's culture, and other countries should take note.

Topic B: Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

Across the globe, deforestation has become an extremely large issue to the environment. This issue affects all facets of life including humans, animals, and plants. Over eighty percent of land animals live in forests which accounts for much of the world's biodiversity. In Sweden, over the past 100 years, the amount of trees in Sweden has doubled. This is due to the importance of wood in Sweden's economy. The country has made sure to keep the industry sustainable to the economy and environment. Many "tree plantations" have risen in Sweden while actual forests have grown slimmer. While Sweden has replaced the trees they have cut, their wood industry has still impacted the country's biodiversity negatively.

United States

Represented by: North Olmsted High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

While the benefits of recycling and implementing reusable alternatives are clear and present, the process of strengthening and broadening of the U.S. recycling system to create a wide job availability and enhance environmental and community benefits will require multi-stakeholder communication in order to address the challenges currently plaguing our system. Current challenges today include: a lack of information and knowledge of the proper way to recycle and a lack of communication within different sectors of the recycling system. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), In 2013, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash and recycled and composted about 87 million tons of this material, equivalent to a 34.3 percent recycling rate. On average, we recycled and composted 1.51 pounds of our individual waste generation of 4.40 pounds per person per day. Most Americans want to recycle, as they recognize the dire need to protect and prevent the environment from harboring a steeper downward spiral that will ultimately become irreversible. However, it can be difficult for every day consumers to understand what materials can be recycled, how they can be recycled, and where to recycle different categories of materials. This confusion often leads to placing recyclables in the trash or throwing trash in the recycling bin or cart. If the nation took it upon itself to implement programs in the education system to teach and inform about the negative effects of waste accumulation, as well as the benefits and methods of proper recycling, the stepping stones for worldwide implementation would begin on our own soil. It is detrimental to not only the United States of America, but all nations and demographics to educate the youth on the benefits of recycling. Although solutions and methods of implementation are difficult to put into regulation, they have been attempted before. In 2018, EPA led a series of conversations with major stakeholders involved in the recycling system. These were a chance to interact and equally share ideas from different perspectives on the challenges and opportunities within the system, ultimately leading to the identification of four key action areas. Within those areas, ideas for future actions that federal, state and local governments; industry associations; recyclers; waste haulers; material users; and non-governmental organizations were expressed to establish steps to improve the U.S. recycling system. It is imperative that such processes are emphasized and continued to better understand and grasp a new perspective of the dire need for an updated recycling system.

UNEP, as well as all nations, must recognize the positive benefits that recycling and reusing will have on our land and environment. Moreover, it will encourage a push into the power of education in regards to extending the knowledge of recycling into a broader range of society. It is our duty as national and international citizens to recognize the benefits and step up

and change not only our society, but that of generations to follow; the United States is confident in its ability to lead the way into the new era of this frontier.

Delegation from: The United Kingdom
Represented by: Strongsville High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Environment Program

The two issues before the environmental committee presented are Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe, and Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation. The United Kingdom supports the spread of knowledge on these causes to reduce the carbon footprint on an individual level.

I. Implementing Education Systems in Recycling and Reuse Across the Globe

The rising concern of waste management across the globe presents new problems that must be properly prepared for. Today, about 2.01 billion tons of municipal solid waste is generated every year, and that figure is projected to grow to 3.4 billion tons by 2050. This staggering increase must be curbed by recycling, but recycling rates worldwide rarely surpass 50 percent. Even the highest countries of Germany, Austria, South Korea, and Wales hover slightly above this line, while the majority of the world staggers around rates much lower. As the number of waste generated rises worldwide, it is imperative that these global rates are maximized to counteract the massive loss of resources.

Waste management in the United Kingdom has been progressing at a strong rate on a movement towards a zero-waste economy. That is, the United Kingdom is attempting to create a society where waste is thrown away if absolutely necessary. All resources are valued for their full worth to increase efficiency and save money where possible. The 177 million tons of waste generated by the United Kingdom is a poor use of resources and proper measures are being put in place to begin to cut back on the amount of generated waste. Steps have already been taken to educate businesses on ways to reduce waste and realize savings through reusable materials. Incentives provided to those who comply will encourage proper economic growth towards a zero-waste economy.

The United Kingdom supports a movement towards implementing recycling and reuse knowledge into the school curriculum. A lack of understanding on which materials can be recycled leads to the bins being filled with the wrong type of waste, causing about 25% of recycled materials to be wasted. Programs to explain the difference between waste and reusable or recyclable materials would be a strong step to take in maximizing global recycling.

II. Protecting Against Deforestation and Global Forest Degradation

Worldwide, about 18.7 million acres of forest are cut down every year. The loss of forests around the globe for the growing human population is starting to cause serious environmental concerns, pushing some species onto threatened and endangered lists and may be linked to climate change. The use of forests for biofuel is another concern. High levels of carbon dioxide reside within trees that would otherwise exist in the atmosphere. When burned, this wood releases carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere, increasing the effects of global warming. The growth of new trees to replace the lost carriers of carbon dioxide will help offset the effects of climate change around the world.

The United Kingdom has combated deforestation through its legislation to plant more trees. 60 million euros have been pledged by the government to plant over 10 million trees in both urban and rural environments, with a target goal of 1.5 billion by 2050. Future plans include a north forest that will contain 50 million trees covering 62,000 acres coast to coast. These efforts will repopulate areas that have suffered from deforestation and eventually cancel out the effects of the United Kingdom's carbon output.

Globally, the impact of deforestation can be minimized by reducing the need for wood and giving up some farmland gained through the loss of forests to be dedicated to agroforestry. The United Kingdom hopes to implement legislation that requires farmers to grow trees on a certain percentage of their land. A cost effective and simple solution, the large swaths of land gained through deforestation and forest degradation will once again host trees for environments and economic value. Agroforestry will help to balance the large amounts of lost forests worldwide to minimize the impact on the environment.