

Lila - OH

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the news coverage of the worldwide phenomenon has generally been negative. In reality, however, there has been at least one positive impact: what is happening to our environment. It is estimated that approximately 2.6 billion tons of global carbon dioxide emissions will plummet this year, leaving an 8% decline compared to last year. Pollution has been an issue of growing concern to our population. Yet, by being in quarantine, we have been able to learn a few lessons on how less is more when it comes to our environment. In particular, I've noted the following benefits to our environment while being quarantined: less travelling, more plant based eating, and, as a result, reduced air pollution.

Many businesses and schools have been using online meetings such as Zoom calls or Google meets to communicate. This is having a positive result on cutting down air pollution due to the fact that there has been limited traveling to schools, offices, and other places of work. The result has been less cars, buses, trucks, and semi's on the roads, greatly reducing negative emissions from various modes of transportation. When things get back to normal, I believe we should continue to use online meetings to help cut down on pollution. These vehicles emit particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and greenhouse gases which pollute our air. If we continue to operate with online meetings we will continue to cut down on the amount of traveling, which results in less air pollutants. As a sixth grade student myself, I have to agree that using online meetings has worked fairly well at my school. When the quarantine orders are lifted, I believe it would benefit schools to consider using distant learning throughout the school year, and offices to hold workplace meetings remotely. By reducing the days spent at school or the office, we reduce travel. This not only limits our air pollution but also benefits our lives by improving our air quality for respiratory conditions, lessening the amount of premature deaths, and promotes a healthier atmosphere.

Another action I believe should be carried out past the quarantine is combining errand trips. Combining errand trips is another way to reduce our travel and emissions of air pollution. During Covid-19, my family and many other families we know have been taking less trips out of the house. Instead of taking a couple trips a week to the store, we have been shopping every 1-2 weeks. I've also noticed there has been more online shopping, which also reduces travel. Families should continue to carry out these actions past the quarantine, and also consider walking or biking to a store near their house instead of using cars or buses. This action, though it may seem small, greatly helps our environment by limiting air pollution.

One final action we can take is eating more plant based and organic foods. Slaughter houses emit greenhouse gases which pollute our air. Covid-19 is helping us to eat more plant based and organic foods because livestock farmers are unable to produce as much meat and poultry as they normally would. This results in less meat and poultry consumption. Plant based eating also helps us reduce our carbon footprint, which helps limit our air pollution.

In conclusion, by fulfilling the actions I have listed above, we will greatly contribute to the well-being of our environment. Although Covid-19 has forced us to change how we live, there is one change to living that has been a positive: lessening our air pollution. Air pollution may continue to be a problem, but quarantine life has taught us that there are small everyday changes we can make to tackle air pollution one step at a time.

Works Cited

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