

Discovering Life Skills

Chapter 14: Your Environment

Chapter Summary

Natural resources are materials that are supplied by nature. Some are nonrenewable and can be damaged by pollution. The air you breathe may contain dust, smoke, chemical particles, and smog. Much of the earth's water is polluted. Energy is in limited supply. You may think that pollution and the shrinking supply of natural resources are beyond your control. However, you can make a difference by conserving resources.

Protection of natural resources and the environment begins with you. There are many ways to make a difference. Even though the waste problem is a national issue, the solution depends on individual actions. The key is to reduce the amount of waste we create. Do your part by following the "three Rs," which are *reduce*, *reuse*, and *recycle*. Reduce the amount of waste created. Reuse items you might otherwise throw away. Recycle waste items into products that can be used.