

# Ecology Corner

-the green hornet

Life used to be so much simpler in the old days; before computers, Sponge Bob, recent medical advances and the EPA. Now, along with serving our computers, making sense of Sponge Bob, dealing with the moral quandaries regarding life and death, you're supposed to categorize your trash; oy. There was a time when a trashcan or no trashcan would suffice. Now you need four; paper, cardboard, plastics and metals. Is this really necessary? I think so.

In 1962 Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring, a book about the dangers of DDT, and launched the environmental movement ultimately spawning the formation of the EPA. Although the book was primarily geared towards the impact of man-made chemicals on nature, it also succeeded in pointing out that man has a profound influence on the environment in many ways.

We are well over six billion in number and unfettered, the population will grow exponentially. Man-made things are growing at an accelerating rate as well in order to keep pace with the growing population in general and to fulfill the needs of the peoples from emerging third-world countries. It also seems as though the environment is having a tough time absorbing the effects of this over production. Normally nature evolves over eons but the sudden and forceful brunt of man's creativity could have us destined for a global calamity.

Currently, there appears to be a building scientific consensus that our actions are resulting in global warming. Not too long ago, it seems there were three camps on the subject; those who sited man as instrumental in the cause of global warming, those who acknowledged global warming without man's involvement and those who didn't acknowledge global warming at all. But just recently, George Bush acknowledged the threat of global warming was real and announced the US's involvement in the research for a resolution. Along with that, Al Gore and Rajendra K. Pachauri won the 2007 Nobel Peace prize for their work on man-made climate changes.

There is probably not much that we as individuals can do about finding alternate fuel sources in order to combat global warming, but we can take individual actions to minimize our impact on the environment that collectively could make a difference. Recycling is one such measure that would have a positive consequence. .

So as citizens and businesses who would be good stewards of the environment, we should recycle and endeavor to find other ways to reduce deleterious results of our actions on the environment. To learn more about recycling try [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org). Also your county government website would probably have some information since most counties are mandating recycling programs.