

# Don't Set Your Waste On Fire!

- training booklet -



# This booklet belongs to:

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(NAME)

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(DATE)



# How this booklet works:

This booklet is composed of a story and activities related to it. Read the story and learn about the topics of the open burning of waste and recycling through the related activities. You will be guided by your teacher throughout.

## Main Characters



**Jabari**



**Amara**

Amara learns about the dangers of open burning of waste at school and joins the Recycling Hero competition. As she shares what she is learning with her father Jabari, he develops a recycling business idea and launches it.

It's Monday morning and the sun is up and shining. As usual, the weather is hot but it is nothing compared to what Jabari endures every day. Dark smoke, burnt soils and silent men loudly smashing used electronics with a rock was Jabari's working life. He works as a waste picker at his local waste dump site. The burning of all sorts of waste was the only thing that gave light in this dark place. Using a long metal rod, Jabari drops some broken electronic gadgets in the fire to melt them. Idle, he patiently watches it slowly burn in front of him. Once melted, he bends down with a rice bag in one hand and with the other picks up scraps of metal from the ashes.



His fingers turned red from burning. Jabari looks across and realizes that he is not the only one who is getting burns. Everyone who works in a waste dump site suffers, but it is the only way they know to provide for their families. With sweat dripping down his face, he wonders if there is a better way to make money from waste.



# Activity 1: Word Search

Find all the words related to the open burning of waste. Learn and familiarize yourself with these words to build up your vocabulary.

R	M	O	N	X	C	E	D	R	E	C	Y	C	L	I	N	G	L
W	G	I	P	C	U	O	N	S	M	P	R	E	D	U	C	E	L
N	S	P	M	E	H	E	L	V	O	A	L	Q	T	K	M	G	Y
E	K	K	L	E	N	E	M	L	I	R	T	M	K	O	V	D	E
W	L	T	U	A	T	B	M	I	E	R	T	E	R	A	X	K	T
X	N	N	F	N	S	A	U	I	S	C	O	O	R	E	N	I	S
O	P	A	P	E	R	T	L	R	C	S	T	N	U	I	U	E	C
G	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	A	I	I	M	T	A	S	M
L	X	R	I	S	K	S	G	C	U	I	L	O	O	E	S	L	E
Q	W	A	S	T	E	I	P	U	Z	E	N	S	N	N	N	L	S
X	T	X	K	Y	F	B	L	T	T	Q	I	G	J	S	C	T	D
P	U	D	Y	K	R	V	D	K	W	F	B	X	Z	G	D	W	J

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

OPENBURNING  
ENVIRONMENT  
COLLECTION  
CHEMICALS  
POLLUTION  
EMISSIONS

MATERIALS  
RECYCLING  
SORTOUT  
PLASTIC  
REDUCE  
PAPER

REUSE  
RISKS  
METAL  
TOXIC  
WASTE



Meanwhile Amara, the daughter of Jabari, is running on her way to school. Just like every morning, she races against her classmates. Their heavy feet sounded like a herd of elephants running in haste towards a river. They arrive in class one after the other, with Amara winning the race – as usual.

# I win!

she shouted



The overcrowded classroom was flooded with kids laughing with one another and playfully chasing each other. The chaos stopped the moment the teacher stepped in with her hands full of booklets. The children hurry quietly to sit at their desk and their eyes were filled with wonder, as they each received a booklet from the teacher.

# Activity 2: Link The Valuable Materials

Below you can find images and words of valuable materials that can be recycled.  
Can you connect them all ?



Textiles (if they cannot  
be reused anymore)

Sorted vegetable  
and fruit waste

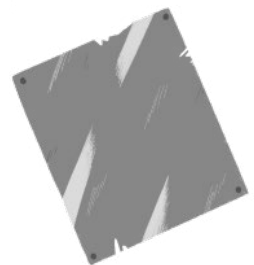


Electronics and  
electric appliances



Glass bottles  
and jars

Paper and  
cardboard



Metals (cans,  
wire and other)



Plastic bottles and  
other hard plastics



# Activity 2.2: Collect And Transform

For this activity, your challenge is to collect recyclable materials, bring them to class and transform them into any object that you wish. Check out some examples below :



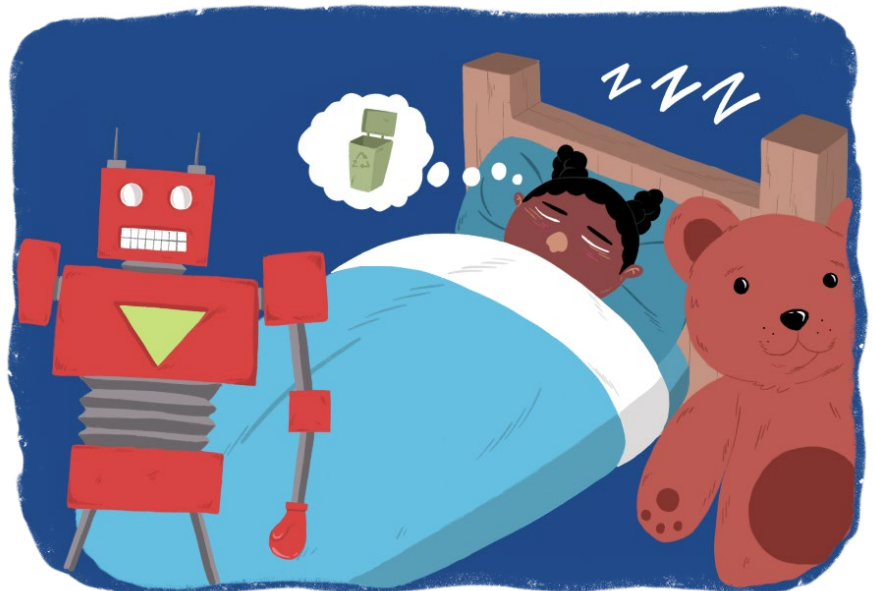
Source of the images:

Jon. "Recycle Everything! Turn Your Trash Into Treasure - 28 Pics." Dump A Day, 1 Apr. 2014, <http://www.dumpaday.com/genius-ideas-2/recycle-everything-turn-your-trash-into-treasure-28-pics/>.





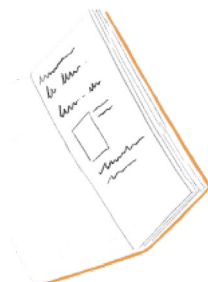
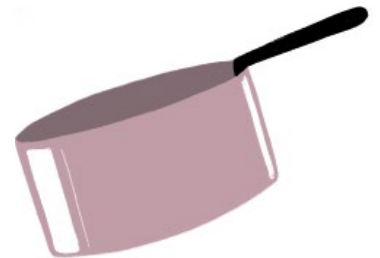
Amazed by what she has learned at school, Amara skips on her way back home. As soon as she arrives, Jabari greets his daughter with a big hug and holds her face with his hands to give her a kiss on her forehead. Full of excitement, Amara tells her father that she started learning about recycling and that she joined the Recycling Hero competition. Jabari listens quietly with a huge smile on his face. Suddenly, Amara notices that her father's fingers were covered in plasters.



She takes both of Jabari's hands to take a closer look and tilts her head up towards him. Amara is worried. Her father tells her about his job and how his fingers got burned in the process. On that night, she fell asleep wondering if there is a way to filter waste before it gets thrown in a dump site, so that her father or any waste processors won't get hurt.

# Activity 3: Sort The Trash

As the title suggests, the objective of this game is to sort the trash in the correct waste bin. Can you link the objects to the correct waste bin ?





The following day, one of Amara's classmates who she regularly races against didn't feel well. His name is Momodou and for the first time, instead of running, they were walking. He says that his skin feels itchy and that he is coughing a lot. Momodou's big brother was worried as he looked worse with every step taken. A few minutes later, the brothers decide to go see a doctor instead of going to school. They part ways with Amara who feels concerned for her friend. As soon as she arrives at class, she immediately tells the teacher about what happened.

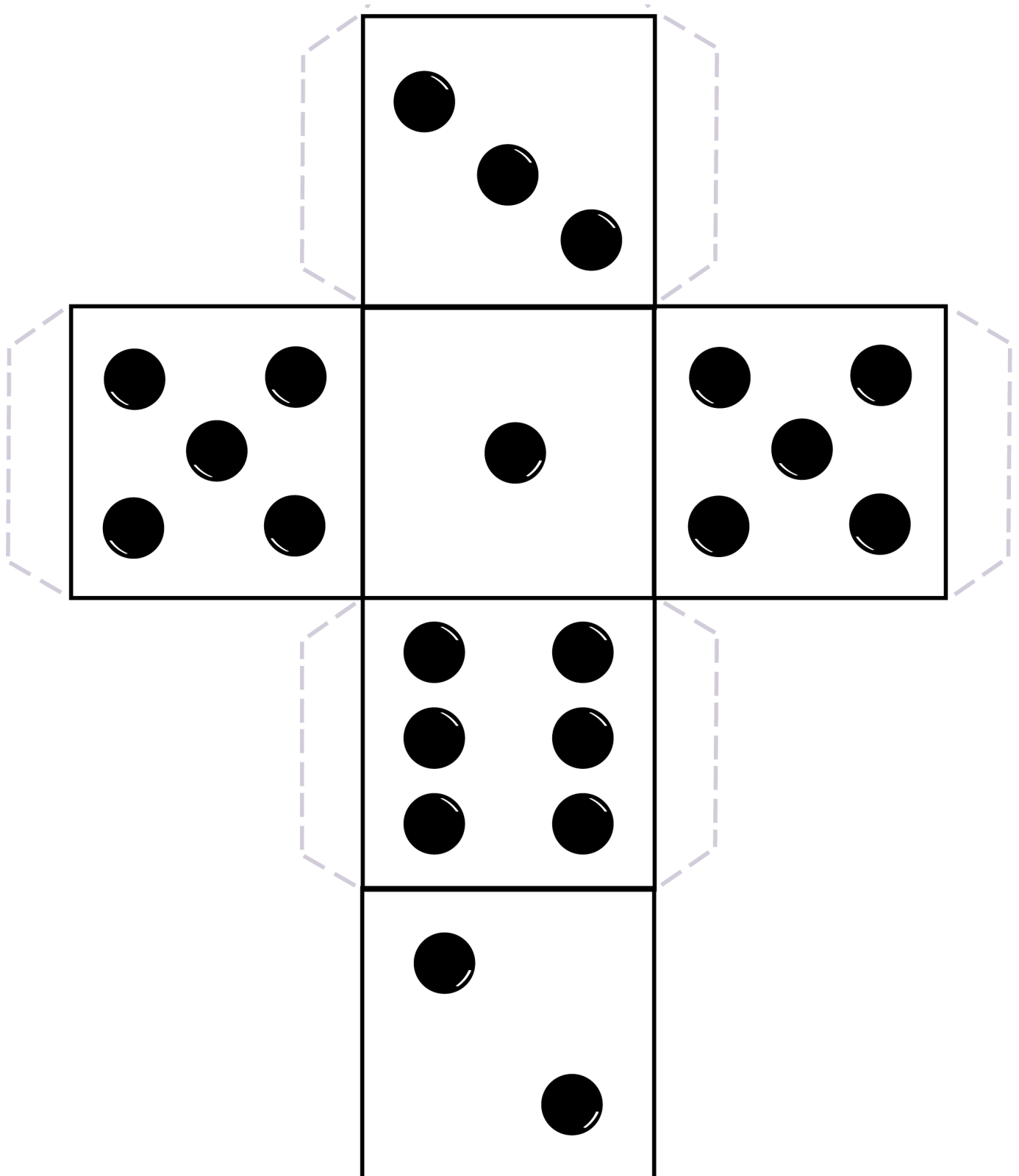


Class starts and today's lesson could not be more relevant. The teacher looks at Amara with a smile, hoping that she would feel reassured. She starts explaining the health risks of open burning of waste.

# Activity 4: Ladder Board Game

To win the game, you must reach the finish line first and avoid the health risks of the open burning of waste marked with exclamation marks (!). Each player must use a pawn and take turns to roll the die to advance. Move your pawn according to the number you get. Some squares are special. See page 14 for further instructions.

If you don't have a die, copy the drawing below on a piece of paper. Then cut and glue it together:





Starting  
Line

1

2

3

4

5

6 !

7

14

13

12 !

11

10

9

8 !

15

16

17

18 !

19

20

21

22

23 !

29

28

27 !

26

25

24

30

31 !

32

33

34 !

35

36

37 !

42

41 !

40

39

38

43 !

44

45

46

47 !

48

49

Finish  
Line



When you reach one of the following square numbers, read and follow the given instructions:

Square 3: move up to square 10.

Square 6: read card #1 and then go back to square 1.

Square 8: read card #2 and then go back to square 4.

Square 12: read card #3 and then go back to square 2.

Square 18: read card #4 and then go back to square 7.

Square 23: read card #5 and then go back to square 10.

Square 27: read card #6 and then go back to square 17.

Square 29: move down to square 16.

Square 31: read card #7 and then go back to square 20.

Square 34: read card #8 and then go back to square 22.

Square 37: read #9 and then go back to square 30.

Square 41: read card #10 and then go back to square 33.

Square 43: read card #11 and then go back to square 35.

Square 47: read card #12 and then go back to square 28.

Square 49: move down to square 38.

## Health Risks Cards

Copy the following cards to a piece of paper and cut them out.

### Card #1

#### Cancer

Being exposed to waste burning causes our cells to grow too fast in places where it does harm

### Card #2

#### Respiratory Diseases

Being exposed to waste burning makes us start to cough a lot and experience breathing difficulties

### Card #3

#### Disturbance of the immune system

Being exposed to waste burning causes problems for our natural systems that fight diseases. Therefore, our inner defence system struggles to protect us

**Card #4**

**Reproductive effects**

Being exposed to waste burning impacts our ability to have healthy children, or any children at all

**Card #5**

**Poor intelligence and nervous system**

Being exposed to waste burning causes learning difficulties and reduces the control of our bodies

**Card #6**

**Mutations to our genes**

Being exposed to waste burning damages the codes in our cells stopping us from developing properly

**Card #7**

**Hypersensitivity**

Being exposed to waste burning makes us more sensitive. Pains or disturbances feel worse

**Card #8**

**Skin irritation**

Being exposed to waste burning makes our skin sensitive, sore and feel itchy

**Card #9**

**Eye damage**

Being exposed to waste burning affects our ability to see

**Card #10**

**Liver damage**

Being exposed to waste burning damages our liver, which acts like our inner “medicine factory” and prevents it from functioning properly

**Card #11**

**Irregular heartbeat**

Being exposed to waste burning causes our heart to pump too hard

**Card #12**

**Headaches**

Being exposed to waste burning causes headaches

That night as Jabari was putting his daughter to sleep, he notices tears dropping down her face. As his father wipes her tears, Amara grabs his hand and holds it tightly.

– What happened?  
Jabari asks with concern.



So, Amara tells her father about what happened to her friend. Then, after learning about the health risks of open waste burning, she feels sad about how it's affecting the lives of the people she cares about. To reassure her, Jabari reminds his daughter that she has made a commitment to bring a solution to this problem by joining the Recycling Hero competition. "Change will happen, one step at a time", were the last words that Amara heard from her father before she fell asleep.



On his way out of his daughter's room, Jabari picks up a pen and a pad of paper. He remembers seeing his co-workers burning themselves at the dump site. He thought that only the adults were suffering while at work. But after hearing what Amara said, he realizes that the pain and injuries do not only happen to those working at the dump site. It affects everyone, both young and old. Inspired to bring change, he starts writing down some business ideas. It all came naturally and words quickly filled up the blank space as fluidly as a river flows. Soon, Jabari was greeted with the sun lighting up the room and a new day begun.

## Activity 5: Draw The Cycle

The impact of waste burning does not just stop at the waste dump site. Can you draw the cycle of how it affects the health and the environment ?

On his way to work, Jabari can't stop thinking about all the business ideas that he came up with overnight. Suddenly, he bumps into one of his friends holding a flyer in his hand for an event that was happening that morning. After greeting each other, Jabari's friend gives him the flyer and encourages him to join the event if he had a business idea in mind. He quickly reads through it and suddenly Jabari was rushing towards the place where the event was held. The perfect opportunity just knocked on Jabari's door.



During the first half of the day, Jabari participates in short workshops to learn about different tools to start a business. Inspired by his personal experience, he develops his idea in depth during the entire afternoon. As the clock hits 5, Jabari stands nervously in front of a panel of business investors. As the judges of the competition, he has to convince them to win the competition and for his idea to get funded.

Jabari begins by sharing what inspired him to start a business by showing his burnt hands covered in plasters. His idea is to sell protective equipment and offer trainings on how to use the materials and how to manage waste effectively.

He gets off the stage with sweaty hands but confident enough that he did the best that he could. While other participants present their pitch one after the other, worry starts to settle in. Jabari's heart starts racing. Suddenly he gets called on stage. A man approaches him with a huge envelope in one hand and hands it over like a precious gift. Curious and confused, Jabari opens it carefully. His eyes open wide as he reads that he won **FIRST PRIZE**.

That day, Jabari came home to Amara not just as a father, but also as a brand new entrepreneur.





# Activity 6.1: Launch Your Business

Launching a business is not only for adults! You too can develop your own business idea. A great business is one that offers a solution to a problem. For this activity, your creativity skills will be challenged to think about a business that will bring innovative solutions to the issue of the open burning of waste.

## Step 1: Brainstorm Problems

Starting from what you have learned, can you point out any problems that the open burning of waste causes?

## Step 2: Brainstorm Solutions

After pointing out the problems, can you think of the solutions that you can bring to each of them ?

### **Step 3: Product or Service**

A business either offers a product or a service, or both. Among the solutions you came up with, choose one and develop it into either a product or a service.

### **Step 4: Present**

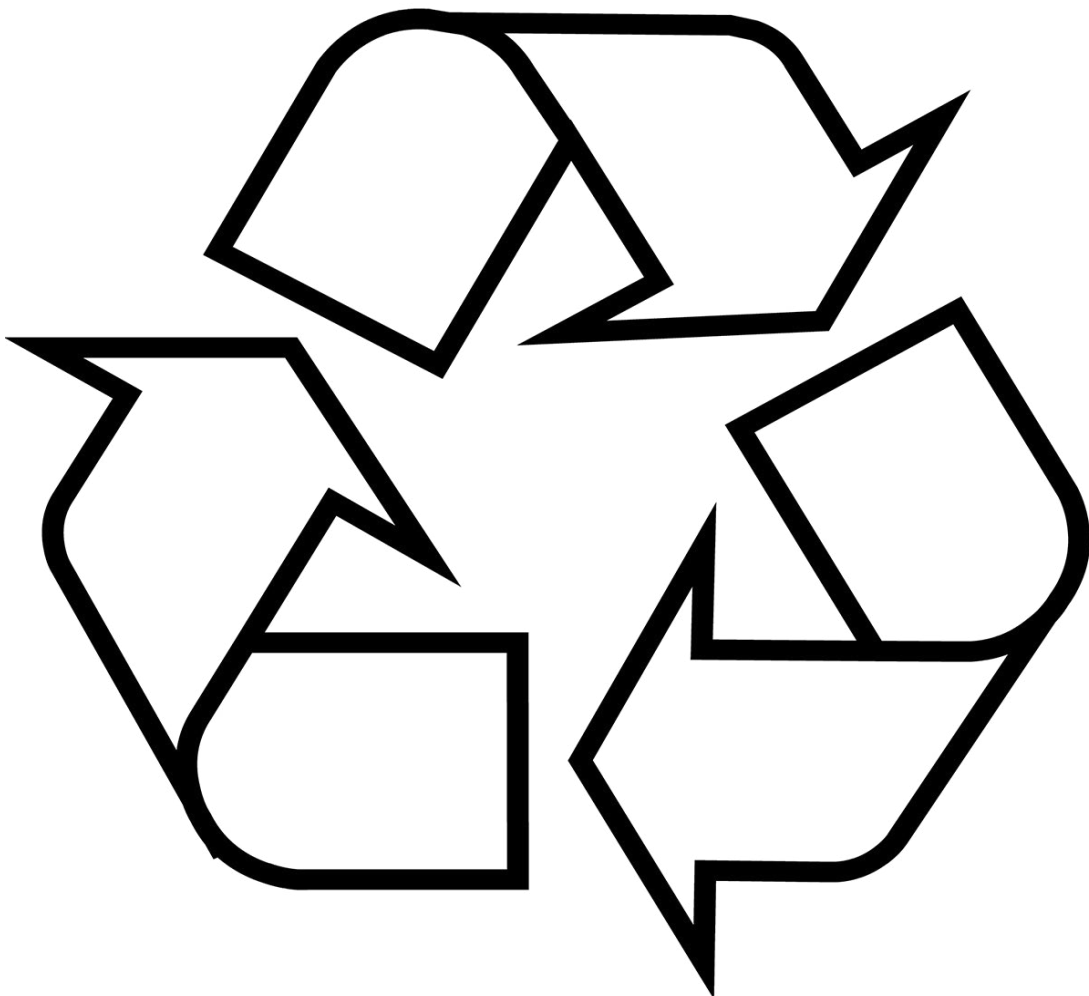
The final step is to present your idea to the rest of the class.  
Do not be shy, there is no such thing as a bad idea.

## Activity 6.2: Coloring Page

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle





Become our recycling super hero and do what you can to save the planet.