**What can we do about global warming?**

**Dear Earth Care,**

**I am doing a project on behalf of my school about global warming. Sometimes I feel that individuals can have little effect on such huge environmental problems. However, I still think people should advocate improvements in the way we use energy today. As I am not sure where to start with my project, I would appreciate any suggestions you may have.**

**Thank you!**

**Ouyang Guang**

**Dear Ouyang Guang,**

**There are many people who have a commitment like yours, but they do not believe they have the power to do anything to improve our environment. That is not true. Together, individuals can make a difference. We do not have to put up with pollution.**

**The growth of the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide in the air actually comes as a result of many things we do every day. Here are a few suggestions on how to reduce it. They should get you started with your project.**

1. **We use a lot of energy in our houses. It is OK to leave an electrical appliance on so long as you are using it--- if not, turn it off! Do not be casual about this. So if you are not using the lights, the TV, the computer, and so on, turn them off. If you are cold, put on more clothes instead of turning up the heat.**
2. **Motor vehicles use a lot of energy--- so walk or ride a bike if you can.**
3. **Recycle cans, bottles, plastic bags and newspapers if circumstances allow you to. It takes a lot of energy to make things from new materials, so, if you can, buy things made from recycled materials.**
4. **Get your parents to buy things that are economical with energy---this includes cars as well as smaller things like fridges and microwaves.**
5. **Plant trees in your garden or your school yard, as they absorb carbon dioxide from the air and refresh your spirit when you look at them.**
6. **Finally and most importantly, be an\_\_\_\_\_\_. Talk with your family and friends about global warming and tell them what you have learned.**

**Remember---your contribution counts!**

**Earth Care**

**An adapted writing task**

**假如你是Earth Care杂志社主编。目前某中学正在参组织学生参与实施保护环境的计划。该校学生李华认为个人的力量非常微弱，不足以改变环境状况。因此，你代表杂志社写回信给李华，提出你的建议并对李华同学予以支持和鼓励。具体要点如下：**

1. **不使用电器时请及时关闭；**
2. **回收瓶罐、塑料袋、报纸等物品；尽可能购买由可回收材料制成的物品；**
3. **做一个环保教育者。**
4. **鼓励李华重视个人的环保行为。**

**Dear Li Hua,**

**You are not alone to believe individuals have little power to improve our environment. However, global warming actually comes as a result of many things we do every day. Here are a few suggestions which should get you started with your project.**

**First, remember to turn off the electrical appliances when you are not using them. Next, keep it a habit to recycle cans, bottles, plastic bags and newspapers and if you can, buy things made from recycled materials. Finally and most importantly, be an educator by talking with your family and friends about global warming and telling them what you have learned.**

**Your contribution counts and individuals can make a difference. We do not have to be the victim of pollution but the victor against pollution.**

**Earth Care**