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**Name of student:** Raymond L. Bean Jr.

**Gender of student:** Male

**Age & grade in school:** 16 years old and in S3

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### 2012 Earth Hour Essay (The 'Green' TURTLES System)

Being 'green' -- for some it is more like a laborious task or chore that drones on and on, rather than being something that's supposed to fill you with enlightenment from helping the environment, however as of now that previous notion of being 'green' is about to change. I have come up with five simple ways that I and you too can, keep Bermuda 'green'. You know that little slogan *keep Bermuda beautiful*? It's actually not that hard, dare I even say easy, you just have to go about it the right way. The way to do this is not just found in the common misconception about picking up trash, though that is effective, it takes a bit more commitment than that. Like I previously mentioned I have prepared five methods '**turn it off**', '**unplug it**', '**recycle**', '**throw it away**', '**light and air usage**' and '**energy conserve**', or as I like to call it the '**green**' TURTLES, that will not only enable you to help the environment and save power, you will also help yourself. BELCO needs our help and without further ado lets go on to these methods, that can easily be implemented into our daily Bermudian lives.

First off is the 'T' for '**turn it off**.' It is known worldwide how effective just turning things off can be, hence the reason why we have events like the yearly natural earth hour. On the contrary however with my turn it off method you can be 'green' and help the environment year round. For instance when I leave a room I do what I call a quick check. This is just where I examine all things around the room in use at the moment, and shut them off or temporarily close them. The most prominent thing I do is turn off the lights when I leave a room, even if I feel like I'm coming right back, because remember anything can happen and sometimes you may get sidetracked or distracted and may not hold to your immediate return. Remember doing this takes no more than a

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minute or two and if I can do it, you can do it too. This will preserve your peace of mind of financial safety in this economic downturn, but lets you know you're not being wasteful either. Also the **'turn it off'** method can be for long term to for example when I go on a trip or vacation I shut of the electricity, I mean it's safe to say what's the point in having it running if nobody's home?

Another method I use that directly corresponds with the **'turn it off'** method is to **'unplug it'**. Now many of you may be asking "what's the difference", well despite the fact everything is off it still may consume electricity, because it still flows and that flow cost power *and* money. This means you have to unplug all household appliances (toaster, chargers, TV etc.) all when they are not in use, because again it is proven that appliances like these still consume energy. Again another question you may be asking is, "what will unplugging one little appliance do?" Well it may not seem like that much with one appliance, but take account for all the appliances in your house combined, think about not only how much energy is being waste, but how much money is being wasted as well. It sounds silly *not* to when you think about it that way doesn't it?

In addition there is the **'recycle'**. This is widely known to be the one of the first things most people think about when someone says the phrase 'being green'. Not only is there that fact, but it is thought of as easy, so just why is it included in my plan? That is because despite it being blacklisted as 'easy', majority of households in Bermuda does *not* do it. Remember it's not that hard to put your cans, water bottles and other recyclables into a 'blue' trash bag. Also affording them won't be a problem, because you have to account for the fact that most likely you will not

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be able to fill up one blue trash bag in between each designated trash day. This mean you won't constantly be going back and forth to the grocery store to buy the 'blue' trash bags, and are able to continue filling them for quite a while.

Furthermore there is the '**Throw it away**' method. As I mentioned early keeping Bermuda beautiful is not that hard. The excuse is there is not always a trash can around, but remember you can always store it for the time being. For example if I have trash on hand and there is no trash can in sight, I put it in my bag and wait for the time to properly expose of it to arise, a fast way to reduce litter and waste. On the topic of reducing there is also the '**light and air usage**' method. This can be best described with an example like during the day I almost never turn of the lights and prefer to use the natural light of the sun. This also applies to wind because instead of air-conditioning, you can let the natural breeze of the air cool you. Speaking of conserving, lastly there is the '**energy conserve**' method. "Renewable energy systems can stabilize your energy costs and reduce your reliance on electricity generated from polluting fossil-fuels that contribute toward climate change." (Department of Energy). Is really there anything else to be said?!

In conclusion there is the '**S**' in the '**Green**' TURTLES which stands for '**Save the Environment**'. This was not included as method, because once the other parts have been completely you *already* will be saving the environment! So without any real effort you'll become almost completely 'green', easy wasn't it? Ultimately I hope this inspires, you as well, to become 'green'. I have taken the commitment and I hope you won't hesitate to do so as well. I would like

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to reinforce before I finish, that not only does the 'Green' TURTLES system benefit the environment; it benefits each and everyone on of us as well.

**Bibliography**

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