

How can my family and I help to combat climate change as cottagers?

President Obama once said, “No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change”. There is no planet B, which is why we need new ideas that will help save our world. No matter how small, one idea can make a difference, even if that idea comes from a few cottagers in a little place called Gull Lake Ontario.

Some of the best ideas have been created through art. It draws attention and plants thoughts into your head. Gull Lake has a small town with a few shops and grocery stores and is the perfect place to paint climate art or sculpt climate ideas. It adds color and would make our town unique from other towns. We can spread awareness this way, and give more ideas than any poster ever would. My grandmother is the person I would come to with this idea. She would transform them into a mural that we can place on the side of a building, or a sculpted piece of wood near a common walking trail.

This is a mural that was painted in Bristol, UK of Greta Thunberg surrounded by rising waters and burning skies.

Light signals when animals should eat, sleep, migrate, and reproduce. As cottagers, we live amidst water and forests that have more wildlife than towns or cities. This means that we are responsible for making the smallest amount of light pollution we can. We can do this by turning off lights in rooms that aren't being used or replacing lightbulbs with more environmentally safe ones.

A picture from the country of a city at night.

A lot of energy is spent importing food from farms and factories that are outside a 100 km radius of your grocery store. If our local stores go out of their way to sell as many local foods as they can get, our town will burn fewer fossil fuels to import them from other places. We could also grow vegetables at home in small gardens to encourage eating local products. I know that I can do my part by checking product labels for the option to buy local food.

To stop pollution in our lakes, we can make sure that nothing is left on docks or shores that could be blown into the water. I often find plastics in the lake that have been left close to the water, and they can lead to animals getting stuck in them or mistaking them

for food. Many scientists have studied this by looking inside an animal that has washed up on shore, and they almost always have evidence of swallowing garbage.

The outcome of these ideas at Gull Lake will inspire more people to take action, less light brightening the sky, animals that aren't endangered by eating and getting caught in litter discarded in the water, and fewer fossil fuels being mined and burned to carry non-local products to our grocery store. We are responsible for taking care of where we live. Gull Lake has the resources and the ideas to start taking action. Creating change requires effort, but those that are willing to spend the time are the people that will save the world.

Resource

https://www.marinemammalcenter.org/science-conservation/conservation/ocean-trash?gclid=CjwKCAjwgaeYBhBAEiwAvMgp2oMY7qj3oztT8TS0sYqS_oDYZYXOnpkXB7iKpztlk81tY77F_yHtwxoCzuAQAvD_BwE