

Why is it important for every individual in Niue to take energy conservation seriously?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. On the sixth day, he completed everything. He sat down, took a deep breath, looked around and sighed with greatest satisfaction. This is good. This is great. I like it. Man, here you are – use it, enjoy it -- but take good care of it. For I give it to you with lots of love. But man, in his typical, foolish and selfish ways, used and abused God's creations. So it comes to the question in hand. Of course it is most important to every individual not only on our island, but all over the world, to seriously conserve energy. As a young girl, growing up I always wondered as to how mum made light like the sun with one switch, how dad made our car move using a yellow-looking water, and awed at how amazing these magical things were. Now that I am aware of my surroundings I can say that Niue is one lucky island full of amazing energy that we tend to take for granted. When approaching Niueans about conservation of anything, we'll receive answers like, 'what for?', 'no need' and 'it's okay we don't have to worry', it's depressing how some people take the matter like it's no big deal. Energy conservation is important, for without energy, we have no guarantee of an easier future.

Its things like solar energy and electricity that enables us to enjoy our daily lives easier and better. If it weren't for power, we won't be able to enjoy our local news on T.V. We would not be able to talk to our friends on Facebook and more importantly we would not be able to have a nice warm showers on cold mornings. All the magical tricks of solar energy and electricity that makes things possible.

So, how do we go about conserving energy to start with – let's take a look at simple every day happenings. To conserve power, for example, use electrical appliances only when it is absolutely necessary. Do not turn on all the all the lights in the house. Turn T. V. off if none is watching it. Give the radio a break, turn it off. Even if you turn the power off, and unplug it as well. Have a good shower, clean your body, but do not stand for hours just to enjoy the hot or the cooling running water. If you can get from A to B without using the car – then do so. These are a few simple examples of how we can help to conserve the use of energy. Now, the question is why? Why should we worry or be aware of the ways and means of conserving energy.

I say that energy is the future of a better tomorrow. A future where we save money on paying our electricity bills, a future where we can enjoy all our

technologies fully charged, a future where we're not being careless and more importantly a future where the future generations to come will enjoy a life less difficult. It's no question how we need energy for our daily lives but why is it that by doing so we are not bearing in mind how much money we are spending on bills, when we can buy more than one load of bread with.

Every time you are leaving your light on, charging your phone or watching movies on T.V you are using up energy and spending money by the minute. Yes, of course we think of these things as important and a part of our lives but what we are not aware of is how the things we love to do, has a price.

Conserving energy is currently a worldwide matter, where there are people who are concerned of how energy is not being wisely and there are some people who think that conserving energy is just a waste of time. Here in Niue, we are lucky enough to have great solar power, electricity and wind power that sometimes we use carelessly. Every individual here in Niue should take energy conservation seriously because not only are we conserving it for us but also for others. Having to be on a beautiful island with great solar energy, wind power and electricity, in what state of mind would someone be in to be careless with their energy usage?

I seriously ask, to what extent is it till we reach an understanding of how important this issue is, will it be when young teens can't play their music for there is no electricity? Will it be when we are not able to have warm hot showers or will it be when we are not able to watch rugby on T.V.? Who knows, but again, these are just few examples as to what can happen if we don't take energy conservation seriously. I'm lying if I said I conserve energy on a daily basis but with recent research and deep considerations of the consequences of not doing so is scary for my future. I believe that we all have the same dream, to watch our kids and future kids enjoy what we have now with no worries.

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