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Going green is the new wave sweeping across the nation, going from industries, to cities, down to the smaller individual communities. Everyone is getting concerned with making our world a better place for our children's children; leaving it better than when we came into it. Not only are we obligated to leave the world in a better condition, but we need to. We need to make a difference, but making a difference is not just talking about making a difference. We can debate on how to make a difference all we want; this is not solving the problem. The only way anything will ever get done about making the world a better place is by doing a three step method of (1) making a plan, (2) executing your plan, (3) maintaining the effectiveness of the plan. If we fail in any of those areas, our time will have been wasted.

In Stansbury Park we don't have a lot of going green programs for the people in the community to participate. We have a few codes preventing people from littering, and keeping their yards maintained. For the most part that's about it. I don't know of any local programs in which the residents can participate. Even if any programs exist, they are not very well published and known in the community. What we need to do is start making a plan; something each individual family can get involved in. We need to start close to home, because the closer we get to the community the more effective we will be.

The programs can start with something small like offering a recycling pick up program once every two weeks or so. People would gather the recyclables, and recycling trucks would pick it up along the street. Although it doesn't sound like much, it would reduce the amount of garbage we put out as a community. Then you can start up with something a little bigger like adopt a neighborhood. It would be similar to adopt a highway, but instead of adopting a highway a neighborhood would be adopted. People

could choose a neighborhood they would want to clean up. The local scouts could use the program towards eagle projects, and it would keep the individual neighborhoods clean.

We could finally start working on even bigger programs like having an entire fair dedicated to going green. We could have competitions like who could plant a tree the fastest, who can pick up the most pieces of trash, and various other competitions. During this whole thing you could set up booths advertising ways to go green, and the different programs available in Stansbury Park. This gets advertisement out there for the people to know what is available, and involves more people. This, in turn, cleans up the community.

Plans have been proposed, now the next step is actually doing something in the community. We can talk about cleaning up all we want, but this does nothing for our community. It all goes back to the old saying, “Actions speak louder than words.” The more action we have, the more our community becomes the ideal green community so many Americans are seeking these days.

Finally the last part of the method maintaining the effectiveness of the plan. We can do a lot in a community for a long time, but all the work we do can be erased in a short time period. We have to keep going with it. The only way Stansbury Park will ever get green and stay that way is by maintaining those ideals and going for a long time. We need to make a plan, act on that plan, and keep it going. We owe it to our future generations to set the example and standard, so they can make it even better for their grandchildren. The whole movement becomes a domino effect and Stansbury Park actually becomes the community of tomorrow, and not just another one that talks about it.