

To whom this may concern from my past,

The world as you know, cherish, enjoy, and love is gone. It has been feeling this way for a long time now, but it was officially announced destroyed past the point of repair just yesterday. The year is 2049 and at this point every day that passes could be the last. The build up toxic gases in the air has broken our climate and ruined ecosystems. Holes the size of small countries are opening in the atmosphere and exposing the surface below to the radioactive UV rays from the sun. The ocean and the life you once saw in it is almost gone. Children that grow up today will never even see a fish or anything from the ocean. I've heard that over 14 billion pounds of trash end up in the ocean each year now. It's a struggle now to go out to the store and get fresh produce now a days too. It seemed so basic and easy to get fresh foods not too long ago but growing foods and crops is pretty much impossible today thanks to the environment being trashed. It really makes me wish I did more when I was younger to change this fate. As I look at it now there is so much more I could have done.

Back when the earth was still saveable there are countless things that I or really anyone could have done to help. I could have gone out to make an effort cleaning up parks and beaches. I wish I would have been better with recycling and actually made an effort to recycle too. If I had to guess I'd say only 1 or 2 percent of plastic actually got recycled. I'll admit that I was careless then with trash and recycling and just threw everything together instead of taking the time to sort it and throw it out properly. The other thing that I knew I could have done, but just couldn't be bothered to do was reduce how much water I used. When you take shorter showers and turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, both very easy tasks, you reduce the amount of carbon pollution. This is because it takes a lot of energy to pump, heat, and treat your water. Most of the water got wasted too when some one else could have used it. Granted one person doing this won't make much of a difference but if millions of people did this, there's no telling how much this would have helped the world. And I've yet to even mention the easiest thing I could have done to help. Speaking up about the issue when I and everyone else knew it was happening. In this case one person speaking up could have made a difference because if they were consistent then soon a person would have listened and continued to spread the word like a disease until everyone was talking about it. I could have also reached out to local congresspersons to push for laws limiting carbon pollution too, but never did.

If there was a way for me to give this letter to my past self or anyone from the past really, there's nothing that would stop me from doing that. I want whoever does read this; past, present, or future; to know that the world was once beautiful and extremely promising for everyone. Currently it's gone and not saveable. But not long ago we could have pretty easily stopped all of the pollution and irresponsible disposal of waste to save the planet. Something that wasn't much talked about back then or probably thought of was reusing the waste we had. I think about it now and see that If we would have rescued some of our plastic waste we could have reduced the total amount of plastic waste by about 40% which would have bought us a lot more to fix the issue hopefully. But would that time that we potentially could have had been enough for us to realize that we need to make changes? Would any amount of time been enough? I don't think that people back when the world was still saveable would realize that there is an issue and that we could have done something. It's only after the world has been declared gone that we see we could have done something and saved the world. So again I say to anyone reading this the world is gone and there's nothing we can do about it now. But I am sorry for not doing enough back when the world was saveable to make a difference.

Sincerely, Ethan Cramer