

Divert NS Scholarship Essay

Disposal of Textiles

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The production of textiles, specifically the dyeing and finishing processes, is thought to be responsible for an astounding nearly 20% of the world's clean water contamination. This is a frightening statistic given that 92 million tonnes of textile waste are produced worldwide each year. This is a very troubling demographic figure coming from an environmental perspective. A rise in population, a growing desire for new clothes, and cyclical fashion fads that rely on weekly new clothes purchases have all contributed to an increase in textile output. Conversely, you might be wondering what the municipality of Digby is doing to combat textile waste and how each of us, as people and as a province, can help to lessen the quantity of textiles that end up in landfills. I intend to provide my audience with new and interesting insights by answering these questions in this educational essay.

In the municipality of Digby Textile disposal can happen in one of two ways: the environmentally friendly way or the non-environmentally friendly way. There are several ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle the end-of-life textiles in Digby. One option is to donate clothing to the well-known Digby Bargain Bin, which takes any resellable items for incredibly low prices. This not only benefits the environment, but it also has a positive impact on Digby's business commerce. Another could be dropping off clothing at Acadian Wipers Ltd. on their website it is said that "We are a Canadian, Nova Scotia based company offering experience in the textile recycling industry since 1972. We deliver excellent quality used clothing and cleaning rags/wipers not only in Canada but around the world." This business has a location in Digby and has done so well in terms of reusing end-of-life textile. Due to Digby's close-knit community, clothing is frequently donated to friends or family, which is a wonderful method to recycle textiles that are nearing the end of their useful lives. However, Digby does discard its textiles frequently, as a result of the convenience of Digby Salvage and Disposal every-other-week waste pickups, which are subsequently processed at Queens Solid Waste Management Facility. In general, I believe that Digby, Nova Scotia is moving in the right direction toward an environmentally sound future by properly recycling and disposing of end-of-life textiles.

By handling your own old clothing and avoiding the garbage bags, you can personally make an impact in the quantity of textile waste that ends up in landfills. The best and most convenient way to get rid of unwanted textiles is to donate them. Merely pack them up neatly and effortlessly and then drop them off at the closest thrift store or shelter to help others in need. You could also do the old fashion “hand me down” system with your friends and family. Another way of avoiding the garbage can could be selling your clothes online for an extra bit of cash and this has become so easy with many amazing platforms such as Facebook Marketplace or even creating an Instagram account for the use of posting used clothes to sell. It may not seem like it but also by avoiding fast fashion trends and shopping at thrift clothing shops you are working towards less clothing in landfills.

There are numerous methods that we, as the Province of Nova Scotia, can lessen the quantity of clothing that ends up in landfills. For instance, we may establish additional garment collection organizations that focus on repurposing clothing to create fresh materials like linens, towels, rags, curtains, tablecloths, or even just fabric that may be sold. Having a location to lay their items could make it easier for folks to get an easy release. Alternatively, a clothing donation and pick-up center may be established, whereby clothing can be donated and then freely picked up, much to a food bank. This would provide a means of distribution for those who cannot afford to buy clothing. Even governmental advertisements which outline the different routes that individuals should follow to dispose of end-of-life textiles could also be helpful. After all, true change happens when people take action to protect the environment unanimously.

Executive Summary

Textiles ending up in landfills is a serious environmental problem with scary statistics such as 20% of the world's clean water is contaminated by textile production and 92 tonnes of textile waste is produced each year worldwide. Making this an important topic for this year's Divert NS scholarship essay.

Digby Municipality Textile disposal happens in two ways, one being good for the environment and one being bad for the environment. The environmentally friendly ways include donating clothing to the popular Digby Bargain Bin a second hand clothes store as well as clothing drop off at Acadian Wipers Ltd. located in Digby and in other locations in Nova Scotia where common textiles are converted to rags for everyday use and in shops. Digby being so interconnected also tends to give clothes away to family members and friends. However Digby does contribute to the landfill problem with convenient garbage pick ups every two weeks.

Many ways individuals can avoid adding their textiles to landfills by donating their clothes to second hand shops and shelters. They could also sell them online or give them away to friends and family. Finally it helps to avoid fast fashion trends by shopping at thrift stores.

Numerous ways the Province of Nova Scotia can keep textiles out of landfills is to open repurposing stores and drop off centers. Similarly they could have a drop off and pick up clothing center allowing anyone to pick up and drop off their clothes for free. Finally they could do government advertising about the different ways individuals can help their textiles out of landfills. True change will happen when people take action to protect the environment as a whole.

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