

# What if I Had A Billion Dollar

*By Macy Li, 6<sup>th</sup>*

My dirt-covered boots clomp through the moist soil and brush against luscious plants. Sunlight penetrates the masses of trees as I breathe in the air around me. Birds are chirping, bunnies are hopping around, and a panther leaps out of a bush in the clearing. Walking out of the forest, I see a colossal white tower standing in a large field. The top of the tower is shaped like a funnel, and a miniature screen is displaying numbers changing so quickly that my eyes hurt watching it.

Suddenly, the tall tower disappears into thin air, along with many of the trees around. The water in gushing streams turns muddy and dark. Short shrubs replace many of the green plants, and the moist soil turns into yellowing grass. The animals look lethargic and mangy, and many of them have vanished. I feel the once-fresh air becoming dry and arid. The lovely landscape has been transformed into a huge power plant factory with thick smoke rising from the buildings.

I know that Earth was a beautiful, green planet centuries ago—exactly as I had been imagining—but as humans have become more innovative, man-made climate change is prevalent. The increasing amounts of greenhouse gases in the air are causing the planet to become warmer and warmer, since when sunlight passes through the atmosphere and heats the Earth's surface, the gases trap most of the warmth in.

If I had a billion dollars, I would use it to build these tower machines that capture the extra greenhouse gases in the air, leaving just enough to maintain normal temperature on the planet.

The machines I could create with a billion dollars would be named the EGGR, short for the 'Extra Greenhouse Gas Remover'. Each EGGR would be a tower high in the air that sucks in the extra greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Each machine would be programmed to capture the right amount, which would be monitored on a screen; the team of builders and I would calculate the numbers based on calculations and data. The EGGR would pipe the captured gases underground to a special subterranean environment consisting of plants and the biofuels to eliminate the change in the current global warming. The point of creating the EGGR is to reduce the greenhouse gases in the air, so that the perfect amount of warmth is trapped in the Earth through the Greenhouse Effect.

The temperatures on Earth have been rapidly increasing since the twenty-first century, and I am concerned about the future of the planet and what it will be like to live on Earth if we do not take stronger action. By using a billion dollars to construct the EGGR machines, I hope that we could reduce the greenhouse gases in the air and restore jubilant life on Earth.