

A Morning in 2040

It is 2040, and a global effort to finally be dependent on renewable resources is complete. Oil rigs and nuclear power plants have stopped functioning. Instead, there are wind farms and massive solar power. Scientists have concluded that the air in the environment has improved. There is a huge amount of electricity present now, mostly because of the upstart of many eco-friendly power sources within the last couple decades. Experts on energy claim that the world will never have another blackout again. The dependency on oil has decreased significantly, and it is only used to make petroleum based products. The world has become more renewable and eco-friendly.

Every morning, a bright light shines through the window curtains, and the light always wakes up the fifteen-year-old Johnny Smith. But Johnny Smith has come to appreciate all the light reflected from the solar panels that helps his town have electricity. But the light from the solar panels are better than the wind turbines that are outside his friends houses. The wind turbines gave both a loud noise and a bad view. Johnny was glad that the solar cells wouldn't interrupt his sleep in the middle of the night like the wind turbines do to his friends.

Johnny walks just a few steps to enter the kitchen where his parents are already waiting for him with breakfast. Today is his first day in high school, but it is only a Sunday-orientation day. Previously, he attended middle school in the suburbs, but his parents wanted to relocate to the urban area where the education is stronger. All the living areas in the city are small. Johnny always overhears his parents complain about how small their houses are now compared to when they were kids. His parents explained to him that houses need to be smaller to accommodate the huge population.

His breakfast includes some eggs, a glass of milk and a slice of ham. Nothing fancy. Most of the food is bought in the local market. Local farmers usually send their goods into the markets. It has been a while since supermarkets were used; the change is mainly because sending the local grown food into one place is much more efficient. Instead of sending groceries from across nation to Johnny's supermarket, the farmers that live close by can just send their produce to the local supermarket. Johnny finishes up his breakfast. He goes back to his room to put on one of his sets of outside clothes. He does not own many sets of clothes, mainly because it is unnecessary for most people to have a lot. There is no laundry to do anymore, thanks to the use the nanotechnology in clothes. The small nanobots in the clothes automatically destroy bacteria and fungi when they are under the sun. Johnny is finally ready to go to school. Just when he walks out, his parents tell him that they forgot to plug in the electricity into the car last night. This meant that the car would not be able to run until later in the afternoon.

Cars in this generation are either running on electricity or on ethanol. Usually in the city, there are more electric cars, because the distances required to travel around the cities are usually shorter. But out in the country sides, where there are more farms, ethanol cars are used more. At the present time, there is so much cheap electricity; there are really no worries about wasting any electricity. Unfortunately, today, the car in Johnny's household is out of electricity and unable to run. His parents are not sure how to get him to orientation, but it is better to have this sort of problem when they don't have to go to work. They realize that they must have come home pretty late last night and forgotten to recharge the car; it is a consequence of having an electric car.

Johnny's dad faces Johnny, "Johnny, we are walking to school today."

Johnny gives his mom a frown, but his dad lectures. "When I was young, it wasn't safe to be outside. The air was unbreathable." Johnny heard this many times before, but he still believes that there is no point in repeating the past. Currently, there is really not much of a pollution problem. The need for nature and being outside has been long lost in the recent generations. Anyhow, Johnny and his father start their walk to his high school. Huge towering skyscrapers. Some are businesses, but most are made up of apartments. Apartments could accommodate the huge growth of population within the last 50 years. Land value has been increasing for a long time already. Even in such densely populated areas, Johnny and his dad walked along streets that contain plenty of grass and trees. The presence of nature is not lost. The high school is not really far away. It is only about a 15-minute walk. Ages ago, it was hazardous to be outside and yet people still went out. But now that it is much safer to be outside, the pollution in the air has diluted, and presently, the air around is no longer dangerous to breathe in. People find shortcuts to stay inside and stay comfortable. As they approach the high school, the traffic has been increasing, but it is understandable; it is the first day of school, and all the students are attending at the same time. School has not really changed much from a couple generations ago.

The high school is huge. Some classes are small, whereas some classes are large. Students are allowed to choose the size of classes, and the choice is based on the students' preference. Johnny picks the small classes; he likes to participate in class discussions rather than being in lectures. In orientation, Johnny must first fill out his school schedule. There are many mandatory classes he must take. Johnny despises a few of them. One of them is Environmental Studies, and he does not know what to expect. He has heard other students speak of it before. These days, most problems with the pollution in on Earth have been solved. The emission rates have dropped significantly. The only problems regarding pollution are the chemicals that stays in the atmosphere forever, such as PCBs and DDTs. But there are other problems that are emphasized more in class. There are other places that are less fortunate than where Johnny came from, and he has only seen little parts of the less fortunate countries on the news. There are always disease outbreaks in those less fortunate areas. The

Environmental Studies class for Johnny's generation is to inform students about places that are less fortunate, and to help his generation brainstorm for ideas for the future.

After filling out his schedule, Johnny and his dad tour the school. It has most facilities that schools have including a gymnasium, a small park, and a huge building of classrooms. Schools have revolutionized, and they could service so many more children than before. Some classes are taught with a huge projector screen with a common teacher somewhere else. Education is a requirement for everybody. If any student skips out on education, they could be fined heavily. Johnny had no intention on skipping out on any education, for he has been a very good student for a long time already. Hence, he was able to get into the high school in the city. A lot of people say that schools have similar levels of education, because all schools teach the same topics anyway. Johnny peers into a classroom; there is just a big screen, and the ground has holes in it to resemble a chair and a desk. (Chair and desk are both made into the ground). Many classrooms look different now; there are no longer any chairs or tables but floors that are integrated with a desk or chair. It looks like a lot of holes in the ground but with a place to sit and a desk to write on. This kind of technique saves a lot of other resources that are used to make chairs and desks. There has been inventions not only efficient but economic; they save the most resources that are used to build them.

Johnny walks outside with his father, they both want to tour the gymnasium but there is not enough time to. They both need to meet up with Johnny's mother for lunch. Johnny and his dad walked through the path connected to the car park to wait for his mother and the recharged car. Johnny's mother swings by the corner, and Johnny and his dad get on and head to lunch.

Afterward

In my reading and research, I have learnt that we could not rely on non-renewable resources anymore. Therefore in my short story, I made sure that the energy is mainly relied on renewable resources. I did a project on wind power, and while doing it, I became convinced that wind power is one of the ways to be relied on. Wind power is not only renewable but it is also much less of a pollutant than energy sources we have now. I also learnt that many of the resources on earth is draining quickly while the population is growing. However, in this story I mainly had the population growing in cities to have the buildings grow even higher, and try to have ways to conserve resources. Conserving resources such as putting the seats and desks in the ground, made of concrete or something. I also included some nano-technology things, I read about them on the news the other day on how there are smart clothes. They are able to clean the clothes automatically; therefore laundry is not really necessary anymore.