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Celebs and the Environment: Carson Arthur



How would you describe your ideal environment?

As a landscaper designer, I spend most of my time trying to create a harmony between my customer and the piece of property I'm transforming. For me, the ideal environment has the same sort of harmony. I would love to live in a world where the needs of the individual are balanced with not only the needs of everyone around them but also the global needs of

the planet. It's like the stone in the pond theory – every ripple is in perfect balance with the one that came before it.

You're known for hosting "Green Force". How did that come about?

Green Force was the brainchild of some very talent people who wanted to make a difference. I was honoured that they gave me the chance to make an eco-change one space at a time. I look at *Green Force* as an opportunity to take on some of the ugliest, abandoned, underutilized spots around me and show how beautiful environmental choices can be. Every day, I get to make a difference for people who really need it and at the same time, the *Green Force* team is leading the way in trying to show others how to do the same. I love my job.

What concerns you the most about the current state of the environment?

I honestly believe that the movement to make a difference is here to stay. As we continue to learn and improve our own lifestyles, I'm hoping that big business will follow. I'm most concerned that staying profitable in times of hardship will really hamper what companies are willing to do to preserve our future.

I don't believe that enough is being done by many companies to move away from the production of hazardous materials and wastes which continue to contaminate the planet. It's such a tough financial decision for many to make, myself included. The question that needs to be answered is "Do we sacrifice the future of the planet to maintain the standards of the today's individual?"

What or who inspires you to make a difference?

Every child, every bird, every tree, every animal. I look at all of the life around me that is impacted from the decisions I make on a daily basis and I try to do what is right for them too. As we learn more and more about the repercussions of our consumer lifestyle, it makes it very difficult to justify our needs over those that we live beside. I was told once that people inherently avoid living with guilt and I am no different. I don't want someone or something to suffer because of me.

What is your environmental credo?

We can't continue to ignore the ramifications of our own actions and I believe that if I want to see a change, then it definitely needs to start with me. I know that I can do better, so I'm looking to improve the areas where I can make a change.

What is the one thing you wish others would do to help improve the environment?

Continue to educate yourself and those around you on what is best for the environment. They say that with knowledge comes power, so I'm asking everyone to empower themselves to make the differences that need to happen. Keep asking the questions that lead to answers which help everyone.

Any final words?

When we truly look around us at the price of humanity which the planet has had to pay, how can we honestly say that we are humane? It's time to clean up our mess.