

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Restoring open space will help planet

I'm sure letter writer Rose Buzzutto has experienced hot summers on the farm where she grew up ["It's going to be hot because it's summer," *Connecticut Post*, Aug. 3], bill because our air is losing oxygen at an ever-increasing rate it makes the heat that much more unbearable. And it is getting hotter. We recently just broke another high heat record.

I grew up in the same house where I now live, and winters were much longer and colder than they are now. Back then, Labor Day really was the end of summer. September was the month that the leaves turned brilliant colors. There were no leaves left on the trees long before Halloween.

I see a lot about limiting fossil fuel emissions, but scientists agree that this only delays the inevitable. Remember that plants (especially mature trees) are our opposites. While we're inhaling oxygen and

exhaling carbon dioxide, they're inhaling carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen. There simply isn't enough plant life left in the world to support the oxygen levels we need. We are already running out of breathable air.

The rising levels of carbon dioxide, both from pollution and from the daily breathing of all mammalian life (including us) without plant life as a counter-balance, are worsening global warming at a rate faster than scientists have ever predicted. The ice caps are melting and the oceans are warming, releasing harmful gases into our atmosphere that also worsen this very serious problem.

Nicola Spence had the right Idea [Street Talk, *Connecticut Post*, Aug. 2] when she said. "Cutting trees in the Amazon isn't helping either." But the problem isn't limited to the Amazon. As I drive around

Stratford, I see at least four areas being cleared of trees and vegetation. If I were to magically transform my house and yard into a wooded lot, I could not replace just what has been destroyed in these four relatively small areas. That's just this year. That's just in Stratford.

The more trees and brush we clear out, the faster our oxygen levels will be depleted, and the faster carbon dioxide will worsen global warming. What's really scary is that it's happening simultaneously in every town, every city, every state and every country. That adds up to a lot of areas that are no longer able to function as oxygen making pollution filters. No wonder we're running out of oxygen!

Why is it so hard to understand that we need to restore some of the natural areas we've already destroyed? How can we do this if

land is being cleared faster than it can be replanted? In a recent documentary on the Discovery Channel it was alarmingly stated that we will be unable to stop "the end of the world as we know it" in as little as ten years! Does that mean that the children of today won't live to have children of their own? It takes at least 50 years to grow a fully mature tree. Do we dare wait any longer?

Few people worry much about preserving open space. Most wouldn't consider tearing down a building to plant a wooded lot. It seems almost everyone is worried about the economy and the expense of emission controls. But what can be more important than saving the world?

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