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**Responsible citizenship and our common home  
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## **Responsible citizenship and our common home: taking care of the natural environment in households and beyond**

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### **Abstract**

*Each of us is an integral part of a larger ecosystem, the natural environment, where we all belong. Therefore, we should rather consider it as our common home, instead of neglecting it as if it were somebody else's business. The future of the ecosystem depends upon everybody's sense of responsibility and commitment, whereas the way we care for the natural environment is largely about making changes in our daily lives. Any such change starts at home, everybody's home. This paper explores how all of us can take action and interact with the natural environment in a positive and constructive way by simply introducing a few changes around the edges, while running our households. Even little gestures can make a difference. The key is embracing the principle of sustainability in every day living and making our homes sustainable practices, to our own advantage and the advantage of whomever in the future is going to walk in our footsteps. How can we do that?*

*One way is minimizing the waste by reducing, reusing and recycling. Another way is thinking environment--wise whenever we make consumer choices on goods and services. A further way is encouraging any such habit by making our own homes paragon of environmental virtue. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that some people make much better than others in this respect. How can we generate a broader sense of commitment to act responsibly in our own homes and beyond? Motivation is what induces people to take certain tasks seriously and make efforts to care for the natural environment. In this respect, information plays a pivotal role as it fuels motivation. Each and everybody's home is therefore the place where we can acquire and share relevant information, kindle motivation and pass down a sense of commitment to our children. Environmental education is the key to the idea of environmental citizenship and the rights and duties thereof. The home is the right place where to develop awareness and build a sense of ethics and politics. The goal is growing a "green conscience", thus contributing to responsible citizenship to the benefit of present and future generations. In fact, the good care of the eco--system that each of us is willing to*

*take is likely to benefit us all, by ensuring advantages that range from the individual home to the common one: planet earth.*

**Full Paper awaiting publication**