415: Environmental Interventions - Homework 1
Due: Sept 4.

Goals:
- To brainstorm towards our discussions on the relationship between technology and the environment
- To get a sense for what may be involved in an environmental intervention

1. Starting discussions
Answers to these questions do not need to be in the form of polished writing. The goal is to get you thinking about the issues we'll be discussing in this course. Bring your answers in written form to class for discussion.

1a. (1 page) Choose one of the *Science* articles from this week's reading. For the environmental issue this article discusses, what role does technology play to *create* this problem? What role does technology play to *solve* this problem? You should answer each question in about a paragraph. You may need to do some informal background research to answer this question.

1b. (1 paragraph) The readings for this week are intended to establish a baseline for understanding what the problems are that we should be addressing through environmental interventions. Although this is a humanities seminar, the readings are primarily from scientific sources. Do you think this is the right way to start talking about the environment? Why or why not?

2. Finding out what's out there
Many software tools are being made available that are intended to address environmental issues. Go on-line and find at least two IT applications that are intended to help ordinary people better understand or address environmental issues. Post a link to each and a short description on our wiki page of example applications at https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/INFO415/Example+Applications

3. An intervention
Select one of the Science readings for this week (this does not need to be the same one you selected for 1a).

3a. (Brief response) What habits in your own life are implicated with the environmental issues discussed in this reading?
3b. (Brief response) List at least one change in your life that would affect this problem.
3c. (1 paragraph) Try making this change. Record how it feels.
3d. (1-2 paragraphs) Suggest the same change to two other people. Record their reactions to your suggestion.

Remember your weekly post to the wiki is due Friday, August 31 and your weekly comment is due by Tuesday before class. https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/INFO415/General+Discussion