The Final Environmental Frontier

*Beyond Planet: The Future of Space Exploration* is an exhibition that is trying to instigate the people’s curiosity of space. This exhibition shows the possibilities of space exploration of the future. They believe that this is beginning of the future where private companies take over the space programs and not the governments. This is already being proven in the US and Europe where the government has lost most of their control and importance over the space research. Some private companies are even letting civilians “tour space”. People are paying thousands to get involved in the space programs. Many private organizations are looking to space to solve our energy problems that we are to face in the future. Moon Express wants to mine the Moon for helium-3, a very rare isotope on Earth, which seems to be more abundant on the Moon. They believe that we can use helium to power our technology instead of using fossil fuels. However, they are many problems with this ambitious dream. Even though there is more helium-3 on the Moon, you can’t specify it as abundant. In fact, the amount of money it would take to harness that 3He will be worth it because it will satisfy our needs anyway. These private organizations say that they will be able to get all that energy. But this was we did to the Earth. We stripped it of its natural resources. Many also question how the moon will look like after we get this resource from it. Most of this element is on the side that we can see. With that kind of human activity, it will be hard to predict what damage can be done to the Moon’s geology and structure. Some space programs are looking to Mars as the answers to our cries. They believe that heating up the planet by 60 degrees and adding a lot of oxygen to the air, we will be able to create a stable environment that can hold life. Many scientists believe this is a good way to fix our problems. Many think that “the Moon and Mars apparently are places immune to environmental damage…” (Walsh). Instead of taking the environment into consideration, they are worried about possible disputes between the US and China. There are so many concerns about new space development. Even if we do succeed in finding and using resources from space, we still have be cautious about running out of those resources. Also, many other creatures on Earth have a relationship with the Moon and other celestial bodies. They use the Moon’s movement to time their lives. It raises many ethinical questions because in many religions and cultures, the celestial bodies have great meaning to. So we must take all of these problems before we settle the final frontier.

I believe we should not be looking in space for the answer to our energy issues and problems. Instead, we should be spending money on research that is looking for the answer on Earth. We need a solution not a back up. Even if we do manage to get this energy from space, what happens when that resource runs out? What situation are we in then? We should be trying to control the excessive amounts of carbon dioxide that we are releasing into the atmosphere. Our destruction of the Earth has gone too far, and we need to stop that. It is responsibility because we created this mess. We can’t let the future descendents figure it out. If we keep ignoring this problem, it will be too late to something when we do start realizing that we have a problem. We have to understand this problem now, and it should become one of our top priorities. Right now, our country is working on alternative energy sources. It is stimulating our economy, so why can’t the entire world do it too? It’s a good thing for both the Earth, and it is helping financially. More people need to understand these benefits of focusing on the environment. Some people are just ignorant. We all should be doing our part in changing our habits to help this Earth.