

day 22: GREENEST

Team GM(n)O - Emily Gan, Isabella Lok, Nitish Rajagopal, Min Yoon
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To Whomever It May Concern,

We are Team GM(n)O, a student-run environmental group participating in the Project Green Challenge. We have several ideas that would contribute to a more eco-friendly and sustainable Oyster Bay.

Firstly, unused sectors of the railroad can be repurposed to house gardens. Much like the High Line, which used old sections of the New York Central Railroad on the west side of Manhattan to create a "living space," a public open space that was utilized as a greenway. This way, an obsolete piece of infrastructure that serves virtually no purpose can be revitalized into a carbon-removing, sustainability-increasing public space. In addition, the High Line's greenway garnered a huge amount of support, so it is likely that any plans for Oyster Bay to do the same would have a similar effect! Clearly, repurposing unused sections of the Long Island Railroad would benefit the environment, public relations and opinions, and move Oyster Bay forwards as an eco-friendly town.

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FULL TEXT OF EMAIL:

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In our town, we have so many plazas filled with restaurants, stores, and other buildings. In plazas such as these, all the buildings are connected side by side and approximately the same height roofs. My idea to make our town more sustainable, is by creating a collaborative garden rooftop, going along the tops of the buildings. Similar to the High Line, there would be beautifully maintained gardens alongside the edges of the roofs. Art made by people of the community would be displayed for everyone to enjoy! In Jericho, I feel there is a lack of community and by creating a wonderful location that displays art from local artists, growing children, or retired parents, it would tie our town together. There would be tables and chairs for people to sit down and enjoy the outside with friends, instead of being cooped up at home. Growing flowers, grass, and trees on the rooftop makes a more eco-friendly environment overall. People can even grow local plants such as fruits and vegetables and host events for people to pick them! Here, people can host events, come to relax, or talk with their friends, all without tearing up more land in order to create this environment on the ground.

Our town is quite small, yet majority of us use cars to travel around everywhere. My idea is that creating bicycle pathways alongside roads will not only encourage people to ride bikes more, but use cars less! I know that in New York City, these bicycle paths already exist, painted on the road, but in our community, I believe that creating a physical divide between the cars and bicycles will encourage people that riding bikes are safe and better for the environment! I can imagine these dividers, with beautiful flowers growing on the tops of them and possibly art from local schools displayed on the sides. Adding these elements would add a sense of community and make our town truly "the dream town". This would not only reduce the amount of CO2 released in the environment, but encourage all people to exercise and have fun, even when traveling!

Thank you for your consideration!

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Thank you for writing.

Regards,
Web Inquery