





Libbie Smith, Joseph Haggerty, Johnston Dragons  
kburns

[smith.elizabeth@jdragonmail.us](mailto:smith.elizabeth@jdragonmail.us)

6500 NW 100th St, Johnston, IA 50131

## GREENEST

Energy. That was what truly resonated with me. I knew about the common green ways to obtain energy, such as wind turbines, however through further research, I was wrong. I got the privilege this past week to visit the Des Moines Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as the sanitary landfill for AP Environmental Science. I learned that in both places they had an excess amount of biogas that they then used as a green way to produce energy! I also found out that the wastewater facility reuses practically everything that comes in, most as fertilizer for local farms. They are just now starting to implement ways to reuse the phosphorus, which absolutely fascinated me. This made energy really important to me. I was also so pleased to email my city planner and get this response:


 Clayton Ender <cender@cityofjohnston.com>  
to me  Oct 23 (3 days ago)  

Libbie,

It's cool that you're learning about green practices. Considering how we as a society use our land is a major aspect of my day to day work. A main focus of my work has been on stormwater management, specifically reducing flood risks and improving water quality in our water bodies. This is being accomplished by implementing stormwater best management practices with new buildings and subdivisions. These practices include bio-cells which use native landscaping to filter water before it enters into the storm sewer to our streams, stormwater detention basins which slow the release of water into our streams and promotes infiltration of water into the ground, and various erosion control practices to stabilize or stream banks to prevent further erosion.


I like your idea of the green roofs. At this time there are no buildings with green roofs in Johnston nor are the two schools planning on installing them, but green roofs have begun to enter the conversation with builders. Other Iowa cities have begun to see the use of green roofs though. For example the King Pavilion on the Iowa State College of Design in Ames has a green roof.


You're most certainly asking the right questions and it sounds like your learning about ideas that will define our near future. Keep up the good work and stay involved. With partners such as yourself we can continue to make progress if we keep our minds open and keep educating ourselves on better ways to build our community. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions about green infrastructure or Johnston.

 Clayton Ender | Planner  
City of Johnston | 6221 Merle Hay Road, PO Box 410, Johnston, IA 50131-0410  
o: 515.727.7763 | e: cender@cityofjohnston.com  
website | facebook | twitter | LinkedIn

---

**From:** Smith, Elizabeth [mailto:[smith.elizabeth@jdragonmail.us](mailto:smith.elizabeth@jdragonmail.us)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 22, 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** Clayton Ender  
**Subject:** Sustainable Energy



 Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

Implementation of cleaner energy is one of the most impactful ways we can shape Earth into the beautiful, healthy state it once was. Once we all incorporate sustainability, Earth becomes not only a safer planet for the environment, but for people with dangerous jobs, such as extracting oil.

For the past 5 years, I have been planning on becoming an environmental scientist. Later in my life, I have decided to hone in on environmental policy. I want to dedicate my life to truly being an eco-hero. I desperately crave for my children, and my children's descendants to not only know of, but live in a magnificent planet; one without bleached coral reefs, immense waste, and stripped rainforests. I want them to live on a

Libbie Smith, Joseph Haggerty, Johnston Dragons

kburns

[smith.elizabeth@jdragonmail.us](mailto:smith.elizabeth@jdragonmail.us)

6500 NW 100th St, Johnston, IA 50131

planet WITH green energy; one with beautiful roofs with gardens on top, windmills gracefully placed upon plains, and solar panels painting on the surface of deserts.

I have also started the Environmental Science Club at my high school! I am spreading love for the planet we call home, and raising awareness to ongoing issues that we face everyday.

I see myself changing the world alongside so many others. I want to change our policies, to understand how other countries are doing it, and outreach to those so deeply affected by environmental degradation. I additionally see myself making better decisions about many of the products I catch myself buying.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank Project Green for allowing me educate myself. Participating in this program has provided me with information about why I am so passionate about the environment, and about why conservation is so important. Thank you.

Me as a hero:

