

Cover Letter:

Hello! I'm beyond grateful for the experience and knowledge I've gained over participating in the Project Green challenges for a month. I've selected five of my works that I'm most proud of, and am excited to share!

Work #1: Day 1 Green:

I remember discovering the Project Green Challenge after my older sister forwarded me the information in an email. I read the summary of the challenge, then immediately searched up the website to learn more details. Upon grasping the concept of the Project Green Challenge, I promptly called my sister (in college) and showered her in thanks, because I had been facing a period of deep frustration and lack of motivation, as I couldn't seem to find a way to combat climate change and lead climate action. PGC was the step I was so desperately searching for, and I took the opportunity in stride, and became involved as a campus representative. The first day of the challenge, I was beyond excited to participate in the activities, as well as spread my passion for the environment. This is reflected in the very first challenge I did, where I poured my enthusiasm into words, sentences and paragraphs.

Work #2: Day 3 Greener:

After doing intensive research on the magnitude and effects of plastic pollution for a Ted Talk project in my English class year, I took steps to limit my single-use plastic consumption. This included zero-waste lunches, and attempts at avoiding any single-use plastic utensil or snacks. However, upon completing the challenge and collecting all my waste, I was given a "wake-up call". By compiling my waste, I was able to visually see all the waste I produced in a day, even with my attempts at limiting my plastic waste. I realized that I still had much yet to learn to be more sustainable, and had much more personal action I needed to take to improve. I especially appreciate this challenge, as it encouraged me to do more, and continue to become more aware about changes I can implement into my lifestyle to become more sustainable.

Work #3: Day 10 Greenest:

The social justice project involved a recollection of my attendance at the Global Climate Strike in my city of Rancho Cucamonga. I can clearly state that strike was one of the most impactful moments I have experienced. The day before the strike, my friend, and fellow activist, Ava Fagee, and I had stayed up late brainstorming poster ideas, while the day of the strike, we bristled with anticipation and nervousness. I was afraid we were set to arrive to an empty parking lot, but instead, we arrived at a parking lot full of green-clad activists, all holding signs. There was a moment where a charter bus arrived, and a mass of students exited and joined the group. The emotion I felt watching like-minded individuals march to a busy street corner completely warmed my heart, and I almost cried of joy (cheesy yes, but also true.) Being able to document

the event, and to be encouraged to become an activist by engaging the challenge was a process I embraced. From it, I have grown confidence to be a climate activist on my campus, and be eager to share knowledge and spread awareness to my peers, as well as become driven to push for more change, and for more action.

Work #4: Day 17 Greener:

Constructing a report card for my school was one of my favorite challenges. It encompassed the perfect amount of irony in being able to issue grades to my school. After reading about carbon and water footprints, zero and food waste, I had started to observe how my school functioned, and what processes we were doing that were detrimental to the environment. Armed with the knowledge gained from the videos and articles read from PGC, it felt as though a curtain had been removed, and I started to notice all the practices that were completely wasteful and unsustainable. Building a report card, and composing possible solutions to my school's problem areas, opened up a whole array of projects I wanted to implement on my campus. This further spurred me to want to take action, and even now, I'm excited with the anticipation of the possibilities I could pursue to, step by step, help make my campus a more sustainable place to do my absolute best in taking climate action.

Work #5 : Day 24 Greener

Learning about social injustices faced by people across the world due to the climate crisis made me angry, and even more passionate about climate action. It's incredibly easy to be placed in a bubble where a proper world-view is impeded, especially in the United States or places that are well-off, as we first-hand don't feel the consequences of climate change. This is why I discovered the importance of education and how important it is to disseminate information to increase awareness and pop the bubble. Poems, visual art works, speeches, films and other engaging art forms are vital in spreading information in a memorable way, which is what I attempted in my poem. More than ever, the challenge inspired me to push for change, and to push for action, as the climate crisis affects all aspects of humanity and all aspects of the planet, which means all members of humanity needs to be protected, and all members of humanity need to take action. If a small step I can do in helping those affected would be to spread awareness and to first, influence and impact my campus, then I will strive to achieve that change!

Emeline Myung (emelinemyung@gmail.com)

Team Green Beans (w/ Ava Fagee)

Project Green Challenge

1 October 2019

Los Osos High School

Why are you here?

I am here because I have a love for the Earth, the environments it holds, the ecosystems it allows to flourish, and a love for all those that inhabit our planet. This includes animals, from microscopic plankton that allow massive whales to flourish, to the millions of species (both known and unknown) that call rainforests their home. This love extends to humans, including our future generations. With the looming climate crisis, all those that I love are endangered, and I want to do the absolute most in order to prevent and reverse the impact we have done to the Earth. This includes initiating change from home, thinking globally and acting locally, to establish that the critters, small to large, and ecosystems, vast and unique, and future generations have a place in a healthy and sustainable future.

Why do you care about climate change and climate action?

I care about climate change, and climate action, because, in all honesty, it dictates the future our children will live in, determines the consequences we face now, and heightened ones in the near future, and threatens the life on the Earth that I love. Climate change *is real*, and its consequences are already being felt, ranging from climate-induced storms that ravaged coastal towns, the rapid thinning and receding of Arctic ice, to the

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increasing levels of CO₂ being packed into our atmosphere. Action is needed, now, as we cannot risk more lives being lost and damaged from changes in ecosystems and weather damage, and ultimately, the future humans have on the planet.

How do you see your power to affect change?

Again, I believe in the practice of thinking globally, and acting locally. I know I will be able to make an impact, no matter how small, if I strive to make changes in my daily life-style to limit my use of single-use plastics, as well as lessen my carbon footprint. Even then, I believe I can use my voice to inspire change in others, even if it's as simple as dispersing information to educate my peers to encourage environmental awareness, or even inspiring action in their own lives. I know I am able to affect change using my voice, and affect change by motivating a group of proactive individuals, and then collectively, we can make strides to make a larger impact.

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PGC Entry Survey Completion:



Formstack Submission For: PGC 2019 Entry Survey
Submitted at 10/01/19 4:18 PM

Name:	Emeline Myung
Email:	emelinemyung@gmail.com
School:	Los Osos High School
Grade/Year:	Junior
I am environmentally conscious.:	Strongly Agree
Which of these topics do you believe are MOST important when	Reusables/Zero Waste Carbon Footprint

My Experience With Collecting My Waste



This is an image of the non recyclable waste I used, which consists of predominantly plastic, which I was really disappointed about (especially in myself). I have already implemented a lifestyle where I do my absolute best to not use single-use plastics, and I've been doing great. My lunch consists of no single-use plastics, and I try to not pick products with single-use packaging. This proved to me just how much single-use plastic, and disposable waste permeates our lives. This has encouraged me to become more conscious of the waste I am producing.



This is an image of all the waste I am able to compost. I monitored the green waste I was able to collect from my mom's preparation of vegetables, and I realized how important it is to use fresh produce without letting it go bad. I was saddened by the food waste I contributed (with the cabbage). I will become more conscious to use products and not let them go to waste, as well as starting a compost system in my backyard so nothing goes to waste.

What I Learned/What Action I'm Going to Take



After carrying around my waste, I was able to fully see how much plastic waste I was consuming, and waste in general. Even though I started refusing single-use plastics, and started not using single-use plastics in my lunch, such as plastic bags, utensils, straws or containers last year after doing research, I still had single-use plastics that I had to dispose of. This made me realize how ingrained plastic is in all

	<p>the goods we consume.</p> <p>To limit my production of waste, I will do my best to buy produce from farmers markets which not only supports local agriculture and will help limit my ecological footprint, but I can also control the plastic I consume.</p>
<p>My Experience:</p>	<p>I wasn't able to show my friends my waste since I had my lunch which was packaged with reusable containers. However, I talked with my mom about the amount of waste I was still producing once I got home and starting to collect my waste, and my plans to limit it.</p>

Emeline Myung ; emelinemyung@gmail.com ; Los Osos High School (I'm so sorry I think I submitted my green challenge in the greener category)

Social Justice and Activism:

Global Climate Strike!

My fellow activist Ava Fagee, and I went to the global climate strike in our city, Rancho Cucamonga.

Originally, we attempted to organize a school walkout on our campus (Los Osos High School). However, after discussing our plan for the walkout, and presenting our event coordinator administration with a report of why we wanted to climate strike, and a detailed explanation of the climate crisis we face now, we were ultimately not able to organize a strike at our school as the administration did not want to anger teachers and risk school time. (However, a good thing came out of our disappointment, as I soon discovered the **Project Green Challenge** and decided to work to implement the program on campus!)

Then, Ava and I planned on attending the walk out in Los Angeles, but faced obstacles due to transportation and missing a day of school. Luckily, Ava discovered a climate strike organized near us, after school at our central park! We were very wary of attending, especially since we weren't sure if the event was legitimate, and if people would show up. Nonetheless, we **brainstormed ideas and phrases to put on our posters, drawing inspiration from past strikes and slogans. Even though it was a school day, we stayed up late to send slogan ideas back and forth, until we found the perfect ones!** After spending time painting the posters, we finally retired to sleep.

Carrying the posters at school, especially in our big campus, was quite daunting. Walking in the morning I was scared to hold up my poster at school. However, I was happy to receive questions on what it was, and what it stood for, and where it was headed! This way I was able to **inform in a personal manner, and education is always the first key to action.**

After school, Ava and I arrived at Central Park, where we immediately saw a small group of people wearing green and holding signs. **The joy Ava and I felt, as well as the relief was incredible. My heart warmed seeing a group of like-minded and driven people who cared for the environment! Even more incredible, was when a charter bus arrived and dropped off a large group of students who were also prepared to protest. Walking to the street corner, I finally felt confident enough to hold my sign up proudly.**

In all honesty, I've never been an incredibly outspoken activist, especially at school . After doing 3 months of research to deliver a Ted Talk at school about plastic pollution (for a school project), I finally understood how my failure to act, and my failure to speak to educate and encourage was detrimental to the cause I so strongly believed in. That was the moment I decided to become an activist on my campus, especially for the environment.

Reflection:

At the strike, Ava and I were able to network with other schools who had environmental clubs! We received many shouts of support, honks from cars, and smiles of satisfaction. On the busy street corner packed with students, and well as adults, I comprehended how much of an impact publicity has on spreading the message of a cause. Seeing drivers reading all our signs at red lights, and nodding with our claims was a step to action, and a step to prevent the climate crisis. Without the statement made by the collective group of passionate activists, we would not have been able to fully convey the weight of the situation we face, as well as the call for action.

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**My poster reads:
Sea Levels Are Rising, and So Are We**



**Ava's poster reads:
Don't Be a Fossil Fool**

Images from the Strike:



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My School's Eco Report Card:

Themes:	Comments:	Grade:
<p data-bbox="94 415 483 478">Zero Waste:</p> 	<ul data-bbox="597 415 1263 865" style="list-style-type: none">- My school generates a lot of waste. All the lunches are sold and packaged in plastic, whether it be plastic wraps, plastic containers or plastic utensils. This contributes to a lot of single-use plastic waste, considering the scale of lunches sold. From what I've seen, many classes don't recycle paper and plastic bottles or metal cans as well, contributing to the pile up of waste in landfills and accumulation of plastic in the ocean. <p data-bbox="548 877 734 907">Suggestions:</p> <ul data-bbox="597 919 1263 1285" style="list-style-type: none">- I think my school can easily switch to sustainable alternatives, especially since plastic wrapped foods does not seem to be the healthiest option, for our health and for the health of the environment. My original plan was to find an alternative to plastic utensils at my school, and I'm still looking for a cheap alternative that my district will be willing to switch to, but it's possible!	<p data-bbox="1312 424 1474 529">C-</p> <p data-bbox="1302 562 1513 739">It might be harsh, but we can do better, and we must do better.</p>
<p data-bbox="94 1323 483 1386">Food Waste:</p> 	<ul data-bbox="597 1323 1263 1780" style="list-style-type: none">- After reading the prompt this morning, I chose a spot at lunch where I could see what my peers were throwing away in the trash. Sadly, I saw whole apples being tossed, whole sandwiches, carrot bags, bread buns, and even whole lunch salads. My school is pretty big, so I can't imagine just how much food waste is generated from one lunch multiplied over multiple school years. These foods also go straight into trash bins, with no composting system. <p data-bbox="548 1793 734 1822">Suggestions:</p> <ul data-bbox="597 1835 1263 1864" style="list-style-type: none">- Compost! My school has a small garden	<p data-bbox="1312 1339 1474 1444">C-</p> <p data-bbox="1302 1478 1513 1537">Changes must be made.</p>

where little vegetables and fruits are grown. It would be a viable solution to introduce compost bins where students would toss their compostable food matter into the bins, and me and a couple of friends could cycle and regulate the compost bins and contribute the newly formed soil into the garden, or even donate the nutrient-rich soil to other farming areas. This would first take education, as well as clear directions on the bins to specify which food can be composted.

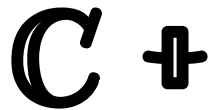
Fashion:



- Especially in high-school, fashion plays a major role in self-expression, which often results in fast-fashion practices. We have a mall nearby that always offers sales, and a common pastime over the weekend is to go shopping and buy new clothes. This practice fuels the fast-fashion cycle, as well as generates a lot of waste and contributes to a large carbon footprint. Thrifting however, has picked up somewhat in popularity. Thrifting encourages giving clothes a second life so they don't end up immediately in waste-piles, and is a more sustainable way of shopping.

Suggestions:

- Education would be key in this case. When I told my friends about fast-fashion, the common reply I got was "what can I do?". By educating my peers about the process of fast fashion, and the unethical practices it encourages, as well as the environmental damage it has, there will be a movement towards more considerate shopping. I can also work with the fashion club on campus!



We need the power of education to raise awareness!

Footprint:



- For the longest time, the air conditioning unit in our large science building, and the language, math and english building (2 large buildings in total) have had broken. This results in the AC blasting in classroom even when it's cold out. This is a huge waste of energy and contributes to carbon emissions, all due to broken AC units. The energy-use freezes students, as well as is an inefficient use of it. There's also a lot of traffic when heading to schools, which results in cars staying stationary and continually releasing CO₂.

Recommendations:

- The dream would be to get solar panels to help offset some of the energy usage. Another way to reduce the school's carbon footprint would be to encourage students who live close by to bike or walk to school! It's healthy as it helps students remain active, as well as helps relieve some traffic and reduces the amount of CO₂ released as cars aren't being used.



Stay active while being proactive

Water:



- There are not much, to no practices implemented in my school to reduce water usage and water waste. The only thing I can think of are faucets where you press and release, and then release a short stream of water. While it's very little, it is a step! The toilets however, guzzle water, and sprinklers go off in the early morning which is not an efficient use of water.

Suggestions:

- An easy change would be to stop using sprinklers in the morning. The small droplets are easily evaporated in the morning sun, meaning water is heavily waster. In addition, maintaining a green lawn is not as important as conserving a



Simple changes can make a big difference

	limited, and vital natural resource.	
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Closing Statement:

I feel like my grading might be a little harsh, but this exercise proved to me how many problems my school has when dealing with sustainability and the impact it has on the environment. I need to plan and execute goals to ensure that the impact my school has the environment is a positive one, not a negative one.

Climate Justice:

To be a student

To be a student is to learn, to attend school

To be a student is to take Biology

I learned about ecosystems, food cycles, continual interconnectedness

Biodiversity, evolution, trophic levels, balance

Cellular respiration, mitochondria, photosynthesis

But what happens when systems are not in balance?

To be a student is to learn chemistry

I learned single-replacement, oxidation, reduction, all kinds of reactions

Carbon, Oxygen, atoms, matter

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect

Chemistry in ocean acidification

All these things matter

When science supports conclusions

Where are our reactions?

To be a student is to learn history

In US history I learned court cases, government and cycles

World history, trade, cultures, religions and peoples

I learned how history tends to repeat itself

Will the textbooks spell, "they broke the cycle"

Or will they cut short as a result of our actions?

To be a student is to look towards the future

We learn about global warming, climate crisis, sea levels rising

Oceans full of plastic and soil depletion

Why is this our future?

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Why is this our future?

We learned about organisms and how balance is key

So we see the animals lost to deforestation

Chemistry taught us how things have a catalyst

So we see how our actions have affected the globe

We learned about peoples across the world

So we see those damaged by extreme weather

Diversity, communities, the poor and underprivileged

We learn demographics, economics and we see these injustices

To be a student is to always look towards our future

We are encouraged to go into the humanities,

But what about the fate of humanity?

People in Africa, the indigenous in the Amazon, places and peoples all in danger

To be a student is to learn

To learn about our world, to learn about the struggles of other peoples

To learn about the unsteadiness of our future

To learn that our actions must overcome inaction

To learn that our voices have worth and volume

To learn our individual power and our power in numbers

To learn to seek justice for our future and all beings on it.

Social Media Post:

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@turninggreenorg

#PGC2019