



# CLIMATECREW2020

Insta: [\\_climatecrew](#)  
Email: [angela.zhu2469@gmail.com](mailto:angela.zhu2469@gmail.com)  
School: Jericho High School


## DEAR PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE,

Thank you so much for providing us with the amazing opportunity of competing in Project Green Challenge this year. We've had so much fun and each day provided us with knowledge that drastically changed how we view the world! To showcase the impact that PGC has had on our lives, we have selected these following submissions because we feel like they best exhibit the ways we have grown and the ways we hope to continue to fight for change in the future.

Day 1 Greenest: Why — The video we created for the first day of Project Green Challenge took us more than eight hours to complete and, when we finished, we looked upon what we had created with immense pride, as we knew this was the sprouting of a new journey of our lives. We decided to use our video to highlight problems that we felt were most prevalent in the general public, such as the ignorance that prevents many of us from understanding just how harmful the climate crisis is to the world. We used a mix of animation, stop-motion drawings, and spoken word to convey the issues currently threatening our world and speak out against the destruction of our environment. We chose this challenge because of all the hard work we put into making this compelling visual so that we could inspire a broader audience to begin taking action against climate change, just like we did when we chose to begin PGC that day.

Day 4 Greenest: Water — Our story, The Hundred Eyes of the Ocean, features Xiao Hai (Little Ocean)'s retelling of her grandma's past in a fishing village where a factory run by corrupt individuals was destroyed by the monster of pollution that it created. Despite this story being fictional, it is shockingly similar to reality in numerous fishing towns in China and other industrializing countries. Particularly, Chinese "cancer villages" attain their name because the inhabitants have been experiencing symptoms from consuming sullied water contaminated by industrial facilities. In spite of the fact that the Chinese government has recognized it as an issue, these stories are still happening nowadays. By sharing our story, we hope to inspire awareness about an awful story that's regularly ignored. The process of writing this story was incredibly fun since we could all collaborate and share our creative ideas with each other. Additionally, it further showed us that vulnerable communities around the world are being marginalized by oppressive governments and often face the worst impacts of climate change.







Day 8 Greenest: Vote — When we learned about this challenge to create a song, we were initially alarmed at the difficulty, and were very hesitant on how to approach our video. However, after brainstorming both the lyrics and the base song, we were able to come up with a cohesive song all about the benefits of voting! Our song was based on Lewis Capaldi's Before You Go, which became our song, Go Now to Vote! Angela sang and wrote the lyrics while Kevin beautifully accompanied with piano. Finally, we posted the video and were astounded by the incredible feedback that we received from fellow peers, Turning Green, and more! All in all, this day was incredibly memorable both because we were able to collaborate with each other to create our own form of music and encourage our community to vote.

Day 11 Greenest: Adventure — For us, this challenge was by far the most fun out of all the days in PGC! We have always been lovers of nature, so we were really excited to just get outside to explore our local trails and take photos of the beautiful scenes we observed. For our images, we chose a photo of a fallen pine cone, which we thought represented the rebirth of nature and the intricate web of interactions between creatures and plants in wildlife. We also took photos of a "be kind" sign which we spotted by a stream during our walk and a bench underneath a beautiful maple tree. We chose this challenge because our hike was very calming and really strengthened our connection to nature! This challenge even inspired us to create a project plan that would allow others in our community to go on similar mindful walks in local trails while learning about the pressing environmental issues that threaten these ecosystems.

Day 25 Greener: Eco-Hero — On this day, we researched the inspiring environmental activism of Máxima Acuña, a Peruvian subsistence farmer who was forcefully evicted from her own property because an American mining company wanted to expand their environmentally destructive open mines onto her land. Even though the Acuña was brutally beaten by the police on multiple occasions and even charged with illegally occupying her own home, she never gave up her courageous and tireless efforts of organizing rallies for her communities' rights to their clean water and land. Eventually, she won back legal recognition of her property rights and stopped the expansion of the open mines. We chose this challenge because we were so shocked when we learned about the environmental pollution and destruction that developing countries disproportionately face due to economic imperialism. Learning about Acuña, who is now our eco-hero, taught us just how privileged we are, and motivated us to do everything in our powers to make sure that situations like the one Acuña went through never occur again.





Thanks to Project Green Challenge, we have gained so many invaluable experiences, including the many nights we spent working, laughing, and being (un)productive together. PGC has helped us learn so much about environmental issues and gave us the knowledge and tools we need to educate others about the importance of climate action. Although this was only a month-long challenge, we will continue to strive for a world where our environment is finally safe and protected.

**BEST,**

*Angela Zhu*

*Lily Li*

*Naann Shao*

*Kevin zhu*

*ClimateCrew2020*



The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of green fern fronds. The fronds are layered, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The color is a vibrant green.

# *Day 1: Greenest*

**CLIMATE CREW**

**INSTA: CLIMATECREW2020**

**EMAIL: ANGELA.ZHU2469@GMAIL.COM**

**SCHOOL: JERICO HIGH SCHOOL**

**USERNAME: CLIMATECREW2020**

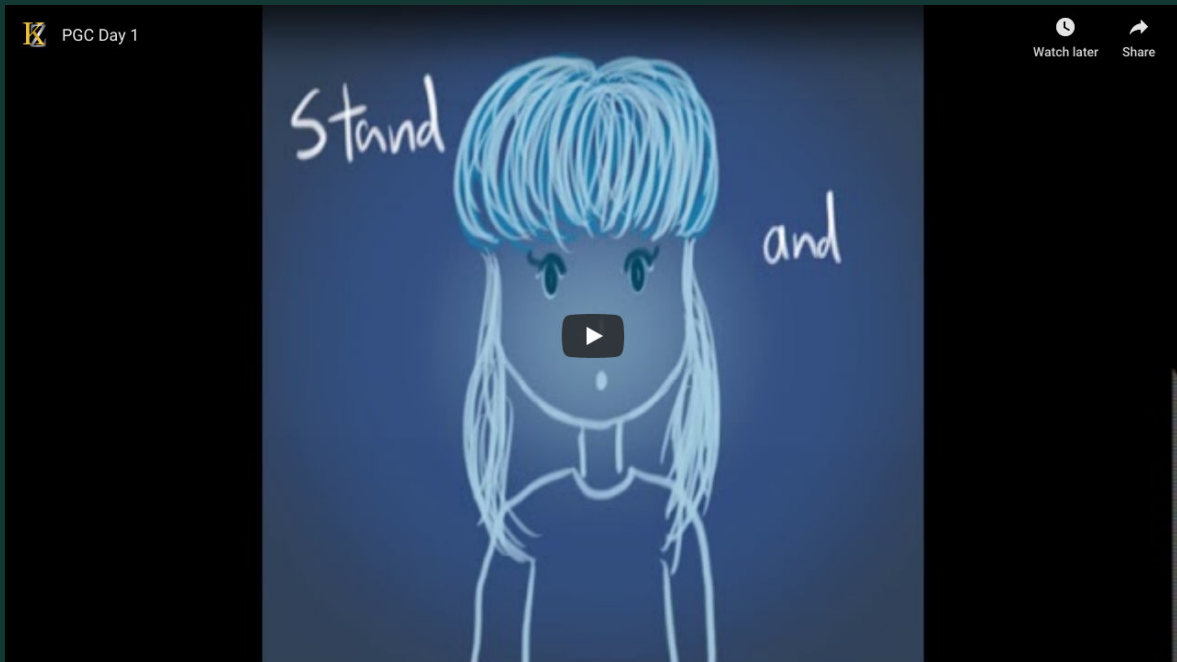




## Dear environment,

We watch as our world is coated by grime, as we don our face masks, shadowed by the mask of ignorance. So we breathe this filthy air through nets that collect nothing but trash and denial. But no matter how much we try to hide these dirtied facades, we are at fault. We are contributing to a world, or rather, a lack of one. So, do we continue to act as bystanders for an Earth that carries burdens it cannot sustain? Do we continue to be enablers of people whose judgement has clouded our waters? Because if we do nothing but stand still and watch, then we are the problem. To right these wrongs, we must trek down roads tattooed with garbage and travel shorelines littered with plastic. With hands free from the weight of responsibility, we must support the gravity of our declining climate and, like Atlas, hold up the skies. But we can't do this alone. Project Green Challenge - our gateway towards success and a greener future.

# Stop Motion Video:



<https://youtu.be/5qmWmjEyc4k>





\_CLIMATECREW  
Posts



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\_climatecrew Greenest - Day 1 · Why do we do PGC? The only way to prevent a problem from getting worse is to actively fix it.

13 seconds ago

# DYING OF THIRST

*The pollution in China's rivers has lead to "cancer villages" where the inhabitants, forced to drink unsanitary water, develop life-threatening sicknesses.*

*The local and federal governments allowing this **must** be held accountable.*







PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE

# DAY 11: GREENEST

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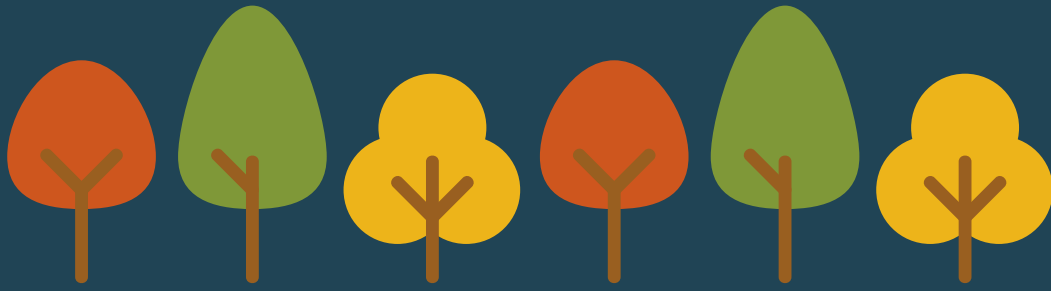
CLIMATECREW2020

INSTA: \_CLIMATECREW

EMAIL: ANGELA.ZHU2469@GMAIL.COM

SCHOOL: JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL

USERNAME: CLIMATECREW2020



# MY INTENTIONS

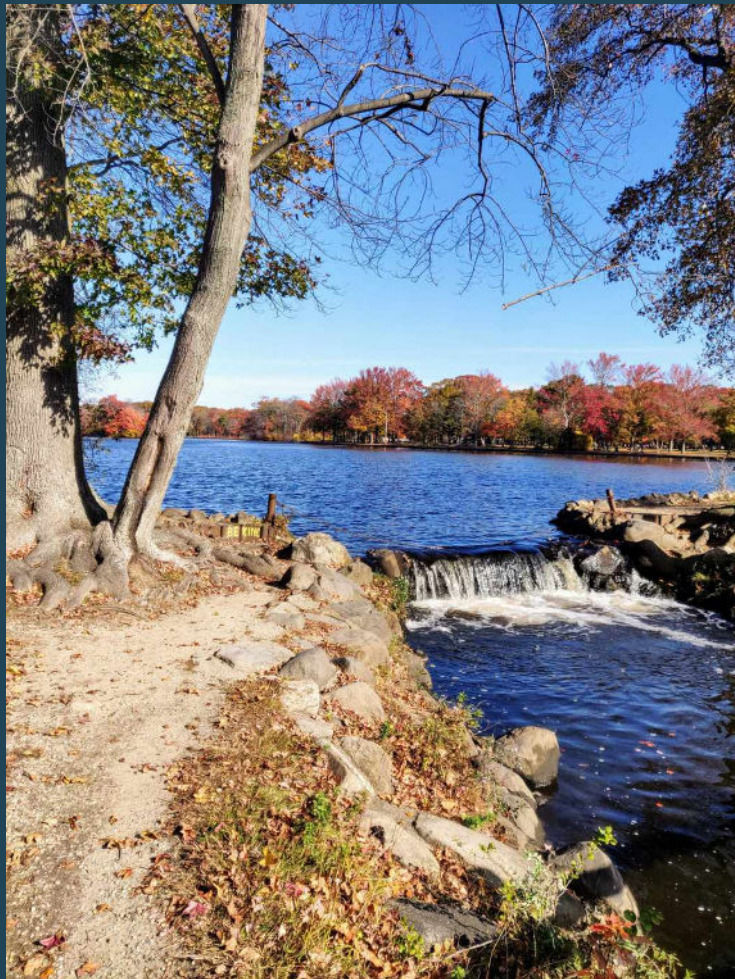
My goal going into my walk today is to take my mind off of the stresses of everyday life like homework, school, and other responsibilities and instead focus on just spending some wholesome time with my family outdoors. I want to enjoy the flora and fauna of my local park and develop a greater appreciation for the wonders of our natural world.





One of the pictures I took on my walk was of this pinecone. Seeing it today reminded me of how this small, rather intricately made, object has the potential to support so much life: Its seeds could get buried into the ground by an eager squirrel and eventually develop into a large coniferous tree -- or the squirrel could eat the pine seeds and the tree would never sprout at all. It sort of amazed me how much life could be housed in just a single pinecone. Even if it did get consumed by the squirrel or another small animal, it would still help support it and help it survive through the winter.

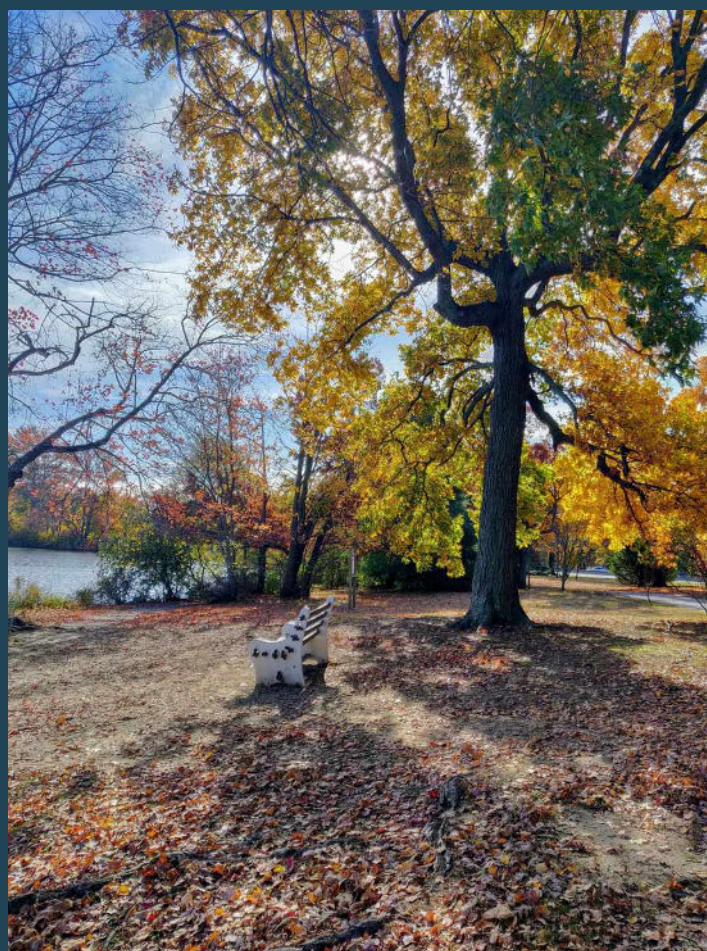




Although I didn't notice it at first, there is a small sign saying "BE KIND" by the stream (you can see it if you zoom into the photo, also shown below). I have no idea how the words got there but it made me remember the importance of being kind to both the people around me as well as nature! Sometimes the world knows when to give the right signs.







I thought that this photo I took was beautiful. The bench is placed right underneath the tree, facing the stream -- perfect for taking a short rest during our walk! Although I didn't come into contact with any other people on my journey today (they must have stayed home because of COVID-19), it makes me happy to see that many other people have sat in this bench and seen the same view that I did, that we've been connected to nature the same way. I hope they enjoyed it, and that more people visit these trails in the future.



# MY REFLECTION

We were able to stick to most of the plan, although we overestimated how far we would be able to walk. We originally planned to walk 2 miles of the trail in 30 minutes, but it ended up taking us over 50 minutes! We took a lot longer than we planned because of all the time we spent observing all the nature around us for interesting plants and critters.

The experience was very enriching and enjoyable for me and my family. The walk really did help me take my mind off of things as I was able to get some fresh air and began to focus more on the beautiful things I saw in nature. I was actually pleasantly surprised that it was able to clear my head and relieve some of my stress off of everything that's been going on since it was just a simple hike! We definitely plan to go on more adventures in nature since it gives us the opportunity to have some fun family time and also exercise our puppy Leon. I think that heading outside to appreciate the outdoors is especially important now since the world is a mess with COVID-19 and the upcoming elections. Going on this walk helped remind me that even though life is turbulent sometimes, the trees will continue to ever so slowly grow towards the skies, the squirrels will continue searching for acorns, and Mother Earth will continue to live on. And since my adventures today helped strengthen my connection to nature, it also reminded me how important now more than ever before it is to preserve the environment and keep it healthy so that our posterity will also be able to have the same experiences connecting with the outdoors that I had the privilege of doing today.





\_climatecrew



PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE

# DAY 11: GREENEST

CLIMATECREW2020

INSTA: \_CLIMATECREW

EMAIL: ANGELA.ZHU2469@GMAIL.COM

SCHOOL: JERICO HIGH SCHOOL

USERNAME: CLIMATECREW2020



\_climatecrew I went on a walk today to take my mind off of the stresses of everyday life. The experience helped me develop a greater appreciation for nature and helped me relax and clear my head. I hope that you all will also be able to take a short period of time out of your day to go out on your own small adventure into the outdoors!  
@kleankanteen @turninggreenorg #pgc2020

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CGOg530lBeB>

ClimateCrew2020

Insta: \_climatecrew

Email: angela.zhu2469@gmail.com

School: Jericho High School

Username: climatecrew2020



- Share the name and a photo of your eco-hero.
  - Máxima Acuña de Chaupe
- Tell us their story in 500 words: Where are they from, what they have accomplished, speak about challenges and obstacles they faced, and why you were drawn to them?
  - Máxima Acuña is a weaver and subsistence farmer from a remote village in the Northern Highlands of Peru. Learning from her mother and Puruvian tradition, she grew up learning to gather local plants to dye the fabric she weaved to make a living. In 1994, she and her husband bought several acres of land, where they built a small house made of grass and earth. Since then, they have relied on farming the land to harvest enough crops to survive. In 2010, however, a mining company claimed it had purchased all their property from the government to

expand their open pit mine, and that Acuña and her family had no rights to the land even though they resided and built their lives there for decades. The company, Newmont Mining Corporation, based in Colorado, US, is an extremely wealthy company that maintains the largest South American gold mine, the Yanacocha gold mine. Their rapidly growing presence threatened the mountains, rivers, and lakes that provided for and had given life to Acuña and her community for years, since it began draining the nearby lakes and dumping waste into the wetland. With the support and aid of the local police and private security guards, the corporation destroyed Acuña's home and crops, beat her and her daughter unconscious with batons, and even killed five other local farmers who were protesting against the mines. Since the police and local Peruvian government continued to serve the economic interests of the mining corporation, they refused to take their reports and Acuña was even fined and sentenced to prison for "illegal squatting" on her own land. After three years of difficult legal battles and international backlash against the Newmont Mining Company and Peruvian government, these charges were eventually successfully appealed and overturned and Acuña's land was rightfully returned back to her. Yet, Acuña has not stopped fighting tirelessly for her community's rights to their clean water and land. She organizes rallies to peacefully protest against mining in Peru and continues to face off against the Newmont Mining Company in the Peruvian Supreme Court. For her outstanding and courageous work, Máxima Acuña, at age forty-seven, was awarded the 2016 Goldman Environmental Prize.



- I was drawn to Máxima Acuña because of the momentous struggles and challenges she was able to overcome in her life and her fearlessness and unflinching perseverance against the abuses of her government and the Newmont Mining Corporation. She should have never had to go through those events in the first place, but after her peaceful lifestyle was disrupted and she was thrust into the current situation, she has still managed to maintain optimism throughout her entire fight for justice. She has raised so much international awareness about the evils of large mining corporations and her activism has led global organizations Amnesty International and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to intervene for her cause. Máxima Acuña is incredibly inspiring to me, and she has even been described by some journalists as a “badass grandma”. I agree with them wholeheartedly!
- What resonated with you from their experience?
  - The thing that resonated with the most about her story was the horrible and inexcusable actions of the Newmont Mining Corporation. It’s easy for privileged people like me to say that a situation like this would have never happened in the developed world, yet the Newmont Mining Corporation itself is an American company! Large multinational corporations like this mining company only commit their worst atrocities in developing countries like Peru and the rest of Latin America because they are the most vulnerable due to centuries of economic exploitation and imperialism from the global North. Still, similar cases of corporate greed occur all over the world, constantly. But not all hope is lost: Máxima Acuña’s inspiring bravery and accomplishments give us hope that, even

small farmers and other individuals from remote locations of the world have the ability to stand up for themselves and their natural human rights against the abuses of greedy corporations and corrupt governments. And it's up to us, the ones who are lucky enough (for now) to not face the same threats to our livelihoods and homes, to rise up, hold cruel corporations accountable, and support these communities throughout our unified mission to a clean, just world.

