



Project Green Challenge : Part 2

Summary

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One of the aspects of our school that we noticed over the years was its overconsumption of energy, and its flat roofs—perfect locations for solar panels. We set to work with organizing the administration of our school. In our meeting, we discussed our plan for a traditional solar installation. In this plan, we would fundraise for the project, and when the solar panels were installed, our school would receive the power. In our meeting, the school brought up another possibility, one that we were not initially sold on. By cooperating with Solar Walk, our school would not have to pay for their installation or their maintenance, while receiving a reduced/fixed rate on our electricity bills for 25 years. The power produced on its roofs will be sent back into the power grid, offsetting our school's carbon footprint. At the 25 year mark, our school will have the ability to buy the system at nearly zero cost and receive all of its generated power. After the meeting, we encouraged our school to pursue a contract with Solar Walk, and our school signed an official Letter of Intent with Solar Walk.

On the other side of our project, reducing power consumption, we met with our Maintenance Director about unnecessary lights in our school. He agreed to let us turn off the lights in the cafeteria and certain hallways during the day because of how many skylights that are present in these areas. We created a schedule for volunteers from our Green Committee to follow in order to turn the lights off daily.

Additional projects we implemented included doubling the surface area of our sustainable community gardens, where all produce is donated to a local food bank. We also met with a compost director from a nearby summer camp to expand our school's composting capabilities. Lastly, we planned many educational activities on sustainability during Earth Week that will reach all the grades in our school. We are also holding a fundraising and celebration event to culminate Earth Month on April 23rd in order to secure funding for future sustainable projects at our school, educate the community on and provide resources for organic home gardening, give away free native plants and sustainable everyday items, and promote awareness for environmentalism in our community.