



Project Green Challenge : Part 2

Summary

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I am from Indiana, which ranks third in the nation in coal consumption, making our state's energy mix above average in carbon intensity. So that is why I want to focus on investing in solar capacity—to clean up Indiana's energy supply—and I am confident that with the right supporting data I can make a compelling argument.

My first goal was to measure climate anxiety in my community. I accomplished this goal by collecting over 1,300 responses to a survey that I distributed locally to college and high-school students. My survey results provided robust evidence that the youth in Indiana are more anxious about climate change than the youth of the United States. Extending my original survey efforts, I have been working for four months with Turning Green partners to create a global climate survey that gauges existing climate change knowledge and then fosters further climate education through resources provided by Turning Green.

My second goal was to calculate the potential return on solar investments at my high school by constructing a detailed cost-benefit analysis. With conservative estimates of installation costs and solar production potential, I forecasted a break-even point before year eleven and anticipate more than 125% return on investment. This high potential return has sparked interest in my school serving as a demonstration project for solar investing throughout my school district.

My third and final goal was to leverage my survey and cost-benefit findings to get leaders in my community to commit to solar investments. I am proud to report that my high-school's principal has committed to (i) complete a city-sponsored energy assessment audit valued at \$3,000, (ii) apply for a \$10,000 city energy efficiency grant, and (iii) install solar panels at my high-school, where the total capacity is to be determined after the energy audit.