



Project Green Challenge : Part 2

Summary

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My project is to get solar panels on the roof of my school, Alexandria City High School (formerly TC Williams), in Alexandria, Virginia. Additionally, a secondary goal of my project is to spread awareness about the viability of solar energy in my community.

My initial plan involved obtaining information about my school's logistics/needs so that I could create a detailed proposal to present to my school board. This would include things like the number of panels and the subsequent potential energy production. From there, I'd have theoretically gained either approval or advice on more information I'd need to obtain. As a part of this plan, I'd also try to raise community support through a petition and public awareness. However, due to a significant portion of my school's budget already being used for capital outlay expenditures on another project, I had to shift my plan.

The goals of my new plan are the same: get solar panels on the school and raise awareness. However, my methods are different. Since the project that my school is undertaking is relatively new, I will be long gone at college (Go Tar-Heels!) by the time the budget opens up. So my new plan focuses on ensuring the longevity of my ideas and project. I will be working with my teacher to implement a curriculum that includes both the basics of solar energy as well as the details of my project. We've essentially been conducting a test run so far; my class has done outdoor labs with solar modules measuring their energy output in different conditions as well as classwork and notes about the logistics of solar. I've also been gathering feedback from my peers in order to determine what works and what doesn't. Next, I've created an eight-page proposal that I plan to provide to future classes through my teacher that contains all essential information that would be potentially provided to my school board.

I have faith in my future classmates because environmental activism and conservation are very big in my area. An example of this is that after posting my petition for solar energy on Instagram, I received over 100 signatures in the first week. Overall, I know that if I set the foundations sturdy enough, future students will get the job done.