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The Project Green Network

With a network like the one proposed, I believe students and communities across the globe will benefit. This challenge has truly been a rollercoaster of emotions and competition, but at the same time it has been a drive for hope and change. While the “challenge” aspect gathers attention and students who are passionate about the environment to participate as separate entities, it creates a community of like-minded individuals and brings our diverse skill-sets and backgrounds together. In reading other students submissions who have won certain challenges, I’ve seen similarities in what we are passionate about and the steps we plan to take to address these challenges. With a continued connection after the project is over, I feel students will be more inclined to stay on this track of social justice, learning new concepts, being inspired, organizing events and info-sessions, and more based on what they are sharing with other PGC participants!

I would definitely be interested in taking on a leadership role in this kind of network. On my campus, I am President of our schools *International Community Club*, a club that focuses on sharing and experiences of cultures around the world through events and presentations, and Vice President of Communications of *CHAMP*, a club that hosts large-scale events throughout the year. I am also an Eco-Rep with a specialization in on-campus engagement and a Resident Assistant overseeing 80+ residents each semester. I do all of this all while being a full-time student in my filmmaking major. With each of these roles, I have gained, developed, and improved my skills of communication, conflict management, leadership, organization, adaptability, teamwork, and independence. I will also be leading the Eco-Rep team at my college at the end of the year and this will be a great opportunity for me to take on more social justice work!

In taking on this role, I would expect for there to be a team of other student leaders who first establish a way of connecting (via email/facebook/etc.) once Project Green Challenge ends. This way, schools immediately have a connection with one another and everyone who wishes to stay connected is committed. After making

this connection, leaders can have discussions about what's next for each of their schools. We can come up with our own themes for certain weeks or months (just as there are themes for each day in the challenge) that we hope to accomplish at our own schools or communities. We could also share issues that are occurring in one another's communities. For example, if one student shares that their school's dining hall is not sourcing sustainable food as much as they could be, leaders could discuss the best courses of actions for making change. What are the reasons they're not sourcing it this way? Is it a cost issue? Are the dining hall staff simply unaware? Are there no sustainable options in a close enough radius? After examining these questions, leaders could discuss what to do next and bring those answers to their own groups. I would expect leaders to continue staying connected and getting back to the other schools with a summary of conversation they had with their own groups and formulate a plan to tackle the issue. Leaders would continue to update each other with their groups progress, informing one another of setbacks, obstacles, and challenges they may be facing while also saying what did work for them, how they did it, and share ways they can address these challenges.

In terms of organization, there could be different groups of leaders that are connected in this way. For example in the United States, we could have leaders be connected on a state level, and from their, anyone interested could connect with leaders on a national level, and from their, a global level. Having levels could better provide coordination and planning in small-scale events within towns with similar government styles to large-scale events in states or countries.

Another great idea would be to plan meet-ups with leaders and their teams. Having the opportunity to meet face-to-face with other participants is so important and can really strengthen the bond and boost optimism. This would take place weeks or even months into the school-year when everyone has shown their commitment and willingness to make change. I believe this would definitely inspire more and more students to keep doing what they're doing.

In staying connected and up to date with student progress from around the globe, there is an ongoing feeling of hope moving through each participant. This entire project, the Project Green Challenge, proves that people do care about the environment, people's rights, and the climate. Students from all over the world from our small Vermont College to the University of Hanoi in Vietnam are now connected via our commitment to social justice and we have shown we want change. Now is our chance to change the world.

WHY JOIN THE

PROJECT
GREEN
NETWORK?



DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Create a vision and set others in a positive direction. Motivate students to follow their passions and learn more about yourself while doing so!

REACH YOUR GOALS

With the help of this network, you will get help staying on track, making progress, and making sure your goals are attainable.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't go off the grid! So many students just like you want to keep making change in their communities. Talk to others and plan your ideas together. Discuss challenges, progress, and successes! Sharing is a powerful tool!

INSPIRE

Remember Day 27's Challenge, The Ripple Effect? Even though you may not see an immediate effect overnight, someone in your town or across the globe may see your work or your projects and be inspired to create change based off of your art piece, an essay, or simply your expression of concern towards an issue!

TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER

Take your passion and turn it into a tool for change. Let it guide you towards something greater. Be a leader. Create goals. Get Connected. Inspire Others. And start a movement.

BE THE CHANGE

Project Green Challenge 2018