

My School's Eco Report Card:

Themes:	Comments:	Grade:
<p data-bbox="94 415 483 478">Zero Waste:</p> 	<ul data-bbox="597 415 1263 865" style="list-style-type: none">- My school generates a lot of waste. All the lunches are sold and packaged in plastic, whether it be plastic wraps, plastic containers or plastic utensils. This contributes to a lot of single-use plastic waste, considering the scale of lunches sold. From what I've seen, many classes don't recycle paper and plastic bottles or metal cans as well, contributing to the pile up of waste in landfills and accumulation of plastic in the ocean. <p data-bbox="548 877 734 907">Suggestions:</p> <ul data-bbox="597 919 1263 1285" style="list-style-type: none">- I think my school can easily switch to sustainable alternatives, especially since plastic wrapped foods does not seem to be the healthiest option, for our health and for the health of the environment. My original plan was to find an alternative to plastic utensils at my school, and I'm still looking for a cheap alternative that my district will be willing to switch to, but it's possible!	<p data-bbox="1312 424 1474 529">C-</p> <p data-bbox="1302 562 1513 739">It might be harsh, but we can do better, and we must do better.</p>
<p data-bbox="94 1323 483 1386">Food Waste:</p> 	<ul data-bbox="597 1323 1263 1774" style="list-style-type: none">- After reading the prompt this morning, I chose a spot at lunch where I could see what my peers were throwing away in the trash. Sadly, I saw whole apples being tossed, whole sandwiches, carrot bags, bread buns, and even whole lunch salads. My school is pretty big, so I can't imagine just how much food waste is generated from one lunch multiplied over multiple school years. These foods also go straight into trash bins, with no composting system. <p data-bbox="548 1787 734 1816">Suggestions:</p> <ul data-bbox="597 1829 1198 1858" style="list-style-type: none">- Compost! My school has a small garden	<p data-bbox="1312 1333 1474 1438">C-</p> <p data-bbox="1302 1472 1529 1543">Changes must be made.</p>

where little vegetables and fruits are grown. It would be a viable solution to introduce compost bins where students would toss their compostable food matter into the bins, and me and a couple of friends could cycle and regulate the compost bins and contribute the newly formed soil into the garden, or even donate the nutrient-rich soil to other farming areas. This would first take education, as well as clear directions on the bins to specify which food can be composted.

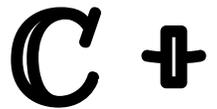
Fashion:



- Especially in high-school, fashion plays a major role in self-expression, which often results in fast-fashion practices. We have a mall nearby that always offers sales, and a common pastime over the weekend is to go shopping and buy new clothes. This practice fuels the fast-fashion cycle, as well as generates a lot of waste and contributes to a large carbon footprint. Thrifting however, has picked up somewhat in popularity. Thrifting encourages giving clothes a second life so they don't end up immediately in waste-piles, and is a more sustainable way of shopping.

Suggestions:

- Education would be key in this case. When I told my friends about fast-fashion, the common reply I got was "what can I do?". By educating my peers about the process of fast fashion, and the unethical practices it encourages, as well as the environmental damage it has, there will be a movement towards more considerate shopping. I can also work with the fashion club on campus!



We need the power of education to raise awareness!

Footprint:



- For the longest time, the air conditioning unit in our large science building, and the language, math and english building (2 large buildings in total) have had broken. This results in the AC blasting in classroom even when it's cold out. This is a huge waste of energy and contributes to carbon emissions, all due to broken AC units. The energy-use freezes students, as well as is an inefficient use of it. There's also a lot of traffic when heading to schools, which results in cars staying stationary and continually releasing CO2.

Recommendations:

- The dream would be to get solar panels to help offset some of the energy usage. Another way to reduce the school's carbon footprint would be to encourage students who live close by to bike or walk to school! It's healthy as it helps students remain active, as well as helps relieve some traffic and reduces the amount of CO2 released as cars aren't being used.



Stay active while being proactive

Water:



- There are not much, to no practices implemented in my school to reduce water usage and water waste. The only thing I can think of are faucets where you press and release, and then release a short stream of water. While it's very little, it is a step! The toilets however, guzzle water, and sprinklers go off in the early morning which is not an efficient use of water.

Suggestions:

- An easy change would be to stop using sprinklers in the morning. The small droplets are easily evaporated in the morning sun, meaning water is heavily waster. In addition, maintaining a green lawn is not as important as conserving a



Simple changes can make a big difference

	limited, and vital natural resource.	
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Closing Statement:

I feel like my grading might be a little harsh, but this exercise proved to me how many problems my school has when dealing with sustainability and the impact it has on the environment. I need to plan and execute goals to ensure that the impact my school has the environment is a positive one, not a negative one.