

Lena Lin

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Bloomington High School South

Day 17 Greener

Theme	Grade	Comments	Recommendations
"Footprint"	C-	<p>A huge issue with my school is that the air conditioning system is highly inefficient and wastes a ton of energy daily because the air conditioning is constantly on—in fact, students and faculty members often complain about how cold it is.</p> <p>The same can be said for lighting, as I'm not sure what lightbulbs the school uses, but regardless, there is an overuse of lights when many rooms already come with very large windows that provide adequate lighting.</p> <p>Lastly, the amount of energy that is used for transportation and maintaining the school's massive area (mowing, etc.) is simply not as efficient as it could be. Premium (as in the most efficient) gas is used for buses, and the entire school does not use renewable energy.</p>	<p>For the air conditioning issue, I have recently begun a campaign to reduce the amount of energy spent on heating and cooling. This is currently in the planning phase, and the first meeting for it will be on October 23.</p> <p>For the lighting issue, a similar campaign can be started to reduce the number of lights that are on at all times in a classroom. Ultimately, the goal would be to present a rule to the school district to allow only a certain amount of lights to be on at a time for how much natural lighting the classroom provides.</p> <p>For transportation, another similar campaign can be made, although this one would most likely be much harder because the school district most likely just does not have enough money to pay for more efficient gas. Although, there could potentially be a grant or something similar that could help pay for it, or</p>

			students/faculty could advocate for a larger budget for transportation.
“Organic/Food”	F	<p>Simply put, our school food is worse than airplane food. There is no organic (and likely not natural) food. Even the fruits are packaged in unnecessary plastic, which I assume means that it was transported a long way to my school, and thus, are not fresh. It definitely does not taste fresh, and oftentimes I have to throw it away because it is so disgusting that I’m afraid it will impact my health. The vegetables are the same. As for the actual entrees themselves, they are also terrible. The meat is not fresh and likely not local. The milk is the only thing I can trust, although most people opt for juice boxes instead, which are not only overly packaged (for the amount of juice in them), they are so loaded with sugar and not loaded with actual fruit juice.</p> <p>The other issue with the food at our school is that the choices are not abundant or healthy. Our cafeteria offers a salad bar (with unfresh fruits and a very small amount of food per meal), tacos, pizza, and bosco sticks daily, as well as a main line that changes its meals daily. Out of these options, only bosco sticks, cheese pizza, and salads are</p>	<p>The quality of food can be improved if instead of buying dirt cheap food from mass producers, we bought locally. Perhaps the school could even set up a partnership between several local farms. This would benefit both sides because the farmers would be able to make a lot of profit, and the school would be able to obtain large amounts of food from a close source.</p> <p>If this were to be implemented, a higher amount of and fresher fruits and vegetables could be incorporated into menus, which would slowly transition students to eat more healthily. By doing this, vegetarians and vegans could also rely more on the school to provide food. That way, they would not have to bring their lunch everyday if they wanted to eat well.</p>

		vegetarian, and there are even fewer vegan options.	
“Water”	A-	My school, I would say, are better than many typical public schools in the United States because we not only have clean, reliable water in our town, my school specifically also has refillable water bottle stations and working water fountains. Additionally, some bathrooms have automatic faucets installed on the sinks, and the toilets are low/high flush options. The only issue with this system is that oftentimes the low flush options simply do not produce enough force to actually flush, so the high flush option is used almost always.	<p>The best way to improve our current system is to make it more reliable. Getting maintenance to look over our toilets would be beneficial to actually utilize the low/high flush options. Otherwise, they would have just been installed for nothing. If that were possible, the school would also have to educate students so that they are aware of this option and actually use it.</p> <p>Additionally, replacing more sinks with automatic faucets would be ideal, or improving faucets in science classrooms so that they have a lower flow so that the water use in the science department can be more efficient. The same can be applied to the showers that athletes use, as during sports seasons, they are used often.</p> <p>This is also a solution that is tough because of financial issues, although a potential partnership with a large organization could potentially help, as many organizations support greener schools and some may even be able to provide the technology necessary to replace certain faucets.</p>
“Soil”	D	Because of several football, soccer, and baseball fields, a huge portion of my school’s land is dedicated to sports.	The fields for athletics as well as the parking lots must be kept, so I think the best way to improve soil quality on campus

		<p>Additionally, my school also has multiple parking lots. By using this space in this way, the soil on the land has been degraded drastically and is now quite unhealthy. Not only are all of these fields carefully maintained and mowed constantly, there are also no gardens to help balance out the degradation of soil in such areas. Simply put, there are just no school-wide efforts to improve soil quality. Last year, as part of APES (AP environmental sciences), we sampled portions of the soil and it was a light brown color, very compacted, the results showed that it was just unhealthy.</p> <p>The only redeeming quality at my school soil-wise is that we have a rain garden, created by a previous APES class and maintained by current ones. Having these plants can help improve the soil quality, but it is simply too small to make a true impact on the school's general soil quality. Additionally, only the APES class is responsible for it; it is not a school-wide effort and most students are not even aware of its existence.</p>	<p>is to involve the entire school in creating more rain gardens and normal gardens. There are several areas that would benefit from having rain gardens, especially because there are so many parking lots that have the potential to have rain gardens right next to them. Additionally, having normal gardens with edible food could not only help the soil problem, but also help the food problem.</p>
<p>“Food Waste”</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>One aspect of food waste I think my school does well is donating leftover food to local food banks, such as Hoosier Hills Food Bank. This way, at least any extra food is not</p>	<p>Because a composting program is going to get implemented eventually, I think the best way to otherwise improve the situation is to educate students. After all, composting will not</p>

		<p>being thrown away.</p> <p>Otherwise, food waste at my school is tremendous; a food waste audit was done last year and although I don't remember the specifics, several bins of waste could have been either recycled or composted. The fact that a waste audit was done and there are efforts to implement a composting program now is a huge improvement to most schools, but the fact that it has not yet been fully implemented lowers my current grade. Once composting is implemented, however, I think my grade would jump up to an A.</p>	<p>be an effective solution if students are unaware of how its existence or how to compost correctly. For it to be utilized correctly, there should be continuous homeroom announcements or videos regarding how to compost, or at least one large gathering of the entire school that informs students on how to compost. These methods of spreading information would likely be the most effective, as having teachers individually go over composting or only having posters up explaining it might not be enough to garner students' attention, and the compost program could go vastly unused.</p>
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