

Ethan Bledsoe

email: [etb1017@gmail.com](mailto:etb1017@gmail.com)

username: etb1017

city: West Lafayette, IN

school: West Lafayette Jr./Sr. Highschool

challenge: Day 6 - Greenest  
2020

## Zero Waste - Greenest

### Take-Aways:

#### Story of Plastic Take Action Kit

- 1) An educational and fairly easy-to-organize event is a virtual screening of *The Story of Plastic*. Showing a movie will encourage people to come to the event because they will be able to watch the movie and they can also learn about your campaign!
- 2) I took the personality quiz and it said I am a Reister because I am not afraid to fight plastic pollution and take to the streets to do so. This is important information for me to have for my future activism.

#### Greenpeace Toolkit

- 1) The impact of physically delivering a petition to the politician's/local leader's office is huge. I never realized this before, but I will definitely do this in the future.
- 2) There is a major importance in identifying yourself as a constituent or say your family has constituents (if you are under 18) because they want your vote!

#### Post Landfill Action Network Toolkit

- 1) One of the first steps to make a campaign is to develop a realistic timeline that is collaborative and gives enough time to complete tasks. Along with this, you will be able to work out an end vision.
- 2) Another important factor in campaigns is to include everyone and find different ways to engage with all members within your campaign and community. For example, if someone is not talking much during a meeting, maybe ask them what their thoughts are so that they can be heard.

#### Zero Waste Home

- 1) Do not buy jumbo sizes of medications because they expire way before you can use them. My family always buys the jumbo sizes of common medicines (Advil, Ibuprofen, Tylenol) but we did not realize that they expire so quickly!

- 2) Refuse the free pen and pencil give away madness and therefore take a stance against wastefulness. I am definitely guilty of taking free pens and pencils but I will no longer feed into the consumerism madness!

#### 5 Gyres Trash Academy

- 1) I learned about the different types of plastics, the numbers that they are assigned, and whether or not they are recyclable. This is valuable knowledge to know so that I can always properly recycle.
- 2) I also learned about the process of producing harmful plastic smog -- plastic breaks down in our oceans into tiny pieces creating microplastics which create plastic smog.

#### **Three Wasteful Practices**

- 1) School: My school only recycles bottles and recycles nothing in the recycling bins that are in every classroom. The contents in them just get thrown away.
- 2) School: My school regularly uses styrofoam trays, which just get trashed after.
- 3) Home: My family and I sometimes go shopping for fun without thinking about the implications of our consumerism.

#### **Step-by-Step Action Plan**

##### Overview

Currently, my school (West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School) does not recycle what is put into its recycling bins. This is not only wasteful but also deceptive. Many students and teachers are not aware that the school throws away what is put in the recycling bins and it makes the students and teachers less aware of the waste they are creating.

The school only recycles plastic bottles that are placed in bins in the hallways through our school's ECO club. However, all of the recycling bins' contents in each classroom are thrown away at the end of each day. ECO club has offered to pick up the recycling in the classrooms as well as the plastic bottles in the hallways, but the school refuses. The school says that the work will all be put on the janitors, but this is not true.

My goal is to devise an in-depth, actionable recycling plan to implement into my school that will divide up the work among students to ensure that none of the recycling work ends up on the janitors.

##### My Plan

The students will handle all of the work for recycling. There will be shifts where people are assigned a certain day to collect recycling every week on their day at lunch or after school.

The process of collecting the recycling will also include laying it out for the city to pick up. Recycling pick up is paid for by the city, so money is not an issue. This addresses the school's concern that the janitors will handle all of the work. There will also be a fill-in system put into place if people are absent or can't pick up recycling on their day for some reason. I want the school to implement my plan for a trial period of at least 2 to 4 weeks. Through this, they will see that their concerns that students cannot handle doing the recycling are false.

### Steps to Implement My Plan

- 1) Ask clubs and students around the school if they would be interested in helping with the recycling program and if they would be interested in collecting it.
- 2) Create a petition on change.org to easily get community support. (This was done by parents who wanted a virtual learning option, and it worked!)
- 3) Design graphics on social media to easily spread the word about what is going on, and my action plan to stop it.
- 4) Once I get enough signatures on the petition, I will create a presentation and ask the school administration for a meeting. There, I will deliver the petition in person (like Greenpeace Toolkit says) and present my action plan.
- 5) I will receive feedback from school administration and if my program is passed then I will begin implementing it into the school. If not, then I will make changes to the program and keep trying until it is allowed.



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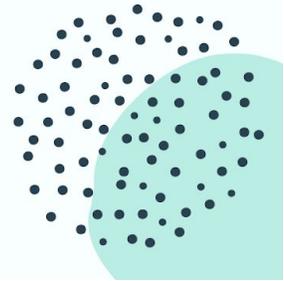


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MY COMMUNITY  
PROJECT

# RECYCLING PROGRAM AT WLHS

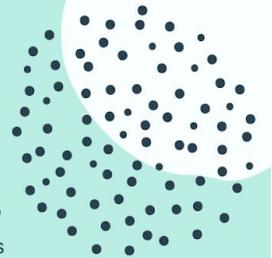
CLIMATE ACTION NOW  
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# MY PLAN

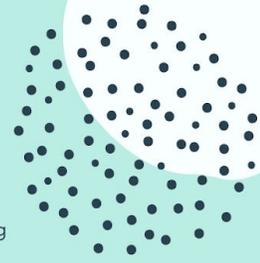
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# STEPS TO IMPLEMENT MY PLAN

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