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# Day 21 - School

Greener



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# West Lafayette Climate Strikes: Mission

We came together in April of 2019 with the ultimate goal of making student voices heard in the fight for climate action. Our focus is on educating and working with our community to demand climate action now.



# About Us and Adapting to Covid-19

I am a leader of West Lafayette Climate Strikes, a 100% student-led organization dedicated to making our community and world more sustainable. We had our first climate strike in May of 2019 and have planned five more since then. Our efforts helped pass our city-wide carbon neutrality resolution last year. We had big plans for this year: a K-12 climate camp, community conversations, and climate education sessions. All of these were set to be in-person, but we had to adjust our plans due to Covid-19. Back in March, we shifted everything online, including three of our strikes, community conversations, and community education sessions.



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# One Key Program

While we will continue doing climate strikes and other community events, we sought to find the most impactful way to create change (even with Covid-19). This led us to brainstorm nearly all summer to come up with the Confront the Climate Crisis Campaign, a state-wide campaign aimed at engaging organizations and student-led action groups to demand climate action.

The campaign's goal is to build a coalition of organizations to push Indiana to declare a climate emergency, recognize environmental justice, and fight for legislation in the statehouse. The campaign has already started with our petition, "Statewide Campaign to Confront the Climate Crisis," which has already garnered 1,600 signatures spanning 15+ countries. To engage as many people as possible, we also hold one-to-one meetings with organization heads. The next step is to finish drafting an action-based letter, which we will deliver to our statehouse legislators to begin putting pressure on our lawmakers. It will include a powerful introduction section that tells the state legislators why they should confront the climate crisis, legislation to declare a climate emergency for the state of Indiana, and specific environmental and climate justice legislation that should be passed.

In the future, our coalition of environmental organizations across the state will continue to work together to fight for cleaner legislation in Indiana. Our website for the campaign will act as an information hub for the legislation going through the statehouse. Through visiting our website, Indiana citizens can become more informed of climate policies that will affect them and the environment. Overall, through the Confront the Climate Crisis Campaign, we will be creating a statewide platform to hold our politicians accountable and build a better future.

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# Allies and Success

West Lafayette Climate Strikes has various allies in our community: Repower Indiana, West Lafayette Students for Climate Action, Purdue Climate Groups, and many more. With the statewide campaign, we want to reach as many organizations across the state, country, and world as possible. For example, we are collaborating with Yellowood Youth, a student-led group in Southern Indiana, to create a climate book with pieces from youth activists from around the state. We are always looking for other dedicated people who are trying to fight the climate crisis.

From day one, our ultimate goal has and always will be uplifting student voices in the fight for climate action. For our climate strikes and community events, success looks like hundreds of people listening to students talk about the climate crisis and why the community must take action. For the Confront the Climate Crisis Campaign, success looks like youth across the state leading a movement to urge state legislators to face the climate crisis. For the climate book, success looks like giving youth the platform to share their experience with the climate crisis and to have their voices heard through their creativity. West Lafayette Climate Strikes is a truly amazing group that has provided me an opportunity to better myself and my community to combat the climate crisis.



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ethan.pgc West Lafayette Climate Strikes is one of the most inspiring and amazing things that I have ever been apart of! Check this graphic out to learn more. 🌍🔥