

mobilize - greener:

CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

planning and three ideas!



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West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School

Recycling Program

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. This program incorporates the waste theme.

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.

Recycling Program

Timeline and Action Steps

Since the project has already been planned, all I would have to do is meet with other clubs to ask if they would want to help out, make the petition on [change.org](https://www.change.org), and make a presentation to present to the school administration. This could all be done in a matter of just one month and then I could deliver the petition in person and present my action plan. I would then receive feedback from the school administration and if my program is passed then I would begin implementing it into the school. If not, then I would make changes to the program and keep trying until it is allowed.

Costs & Long Term Feasibility

There are not many costs associated with this project except supplies to advertising the petition. All of the supplies necessary for this project my school already has. I would also chip in some money to [change.org](https://www.change.org) in order to get as many signatures as possible.

Metrics for Success & Lasting Impact

Metrics for my success would be based on whether the program is implemented in the school or not. A whole school's worth of recyclable waste would go to the plant to be recycled instead of being thrown away in the landfill.

Pros and Cons List

Pros: achievable, fairly simple program that would be easy to present to the administration.

Cons: already planned and straightforward, not very creative or innovative, no direction of where to go next, not scalable

Climate Resiliency Coalition (CRC)

Overview

Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Improving climate resilience involves assessing how climate change will create new, or alter current, climate-related risks, and taking steps to better cope with these risks. Climate resilience is a very important aspect of the climate crisis that is far too often ignored. The climate crisis will continue to disproportionately affect BIPOC and low-income families, who will be forced to deal with health impacts as well. For example, rising temperatures mean that many more people will die of heatstroke. Additionally, there will be record numbers of low-income families that will be food insecure (and definitely will not have access to organic, healthy foods). These are just a few of the impacts that the climate crisis brings will only worsen in the future. With the impending, disastrous effects of the climate crisis to come, climate resilience should be on everyone's minds in order to protect the most vulnerable people.

My goal is to create a program called the Climate Resiliency Coalition (CRC). This program will focus on making communities resilient across the world. But first, it needs to start small. I plan to implement the Climate Resiliency Coalition (CRC) into West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School first. This would be done by forming a CRC club. As apart of it, I want to implement local climate action projects within my school and eventually my community like vertical gardens to provide students with healthy and organic produce, a sustainable and free menstrual product system, a training program for students, teachers, nurses, and administrators to better understand the impending climate crisis, a free room that offers basic school necessities for students, and a safe place within the school that students can access during summer break in order to cool down. These projects are just ideas that could be implemented at my school specifically. Most of these projects would happen over a period of months, and I plan to implement the first project by March of 2021. Climate resiliency should be a gradual change and not be rushed in order to be most effective.

Climate Resiliency Coalition (CRC)

Along with just the CRC at my school, I want to create a website that documents various projects that students could implement at their schools across the country. Once the program is successful at my school, then I want to branch to a chapter system. This would allow students across the country to carry out climate resiliency projects that are more specific to their communities' needs. The overall CRC would still provide advice and guidance on different projects they could start and offer ideas for avenues of fundraising. Overall, CRC would allow students to take action, first at my school and then across the country, to fight the climate crisis and be more prepared!

Timeline and Action Steps

This project has many different steps for completion. But I think I could form the club and create the website by the end of this year. Then, CRC would begin implementing the first project and finish by March of 2021. This would just be the first step though. From here there would be two main ways of growth: expanding to a chapter system and implementing even more resiliency projects at my school. The first will have a lot of outreach associated with it, but I hope to have at least ten chapters by the end of 2021. The second will depend on the projects that my school's CRC plans to start. Hopefully, there could be around two to three resilience projects implemented every year though, and continue even when I graduate.

Costs & Long Term Feasibility

CRC has some pretty hefty costs associated with it because it is not reasonable for the school to fund all of the projects. That is why I have included fundraising as another major thing the CRC will do. This program has significant long term feasibility because of the way it is set up and also due to how much work needs to be done in schools regarding climate resiliency.

Climate Resiliency Coalition (CRC)

Metrics for Success & Lasting Impact

Metrics for my success would be based on many different aspects. The first would be the students' responses. This would be a key part of CRC because it is important that the projects implemented are actually helping students! Another metric of success would be how many projects were started at my school's CRC club. Yet another metric is how many chapters there are nation-wide and their involvement. I want this movement to grow and help as many communities as possible!

CRC would have a major lasting impact on the communities it is in because of the projects that would be implemented. Overall, CRC would make schools more sustainable and prepare for the oncoming major impacts of the climate crisis. Specifically, to protect its most vulnerable communities like BIPOC and low-income families.

Pros and Cons List

Pros: most long-term impact out of all of my other ideas, scalable to start a nation-wide climate resiliency movement, I am most interested in this project because of its intersection between nearly all of the PGC themes and sustainability topics (depending on what projects are completed), very creative and innovative (I have not seen this done before), highlights the necessity to prioritize people most affected by the climate crisis and raises awareness for climate resiliency in general, get to meet with people around the country to receive feedback

Cons: takes a lot of work to complete (but I think I am up for the challenge!), requires a lot of resources and I would need guidance on different areas of the project

Video Education Series

Overview

This would raise awareness for climate activism in my school by documenting West Lafayette Climate Strikes, a climate activist group made up of West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School students. It would feature how-to videos about like planning climate strikes, meeting with local politicians, and making your voice heard. It would also feature a more lecture-based curriculum of different sustainability topics like waste, organic foods, and biodiversity. Another aspect of this program would be going to the elementary and middle schools to teach them about sustainability in fun and interactive classes.

Timeline and Action Steps

First, I would need to plan out a general format of how I want to document West Lafayette Climate Strikes. This would take about one to two months. Then, I would shoot and edit for another one to two months. After that, I would start planning out the learning about climate activism videos, sustainability lectures, and climate classes. This would take up the majority of the year because it could be difficult to get school board approval to go into the elementary and middle schools. Also, I want to make sure these videos are well-edited and easy to learn from.

Costs & Long Term Feasibility

The main costs would be for filming setup and editing service to make high-quality videos. Another cost would be the materials for climate classes. The videos would be posted to YouTube, so that would not factor into the cost because it is free.

Video Education Series

Metrics for Success & Lasting Impact

Potential metrics for success could be from community feedback, the number of people engaged through views, or actions that were inspired by the videos.

The videos would be posted on YouTube so they could be accessed by basically everyone, everywhere, at any time. However, YouTube videos tend to not age well because people like to watch new videos more.

Pros and Cons List

Pros: achievable, fairly straightforward, climate class would empower some youth to take action and the how-to videos would provide instructional advice

Cons: not much end goal, not very original or creative, not very scalable, not much direction of where to go next