

The Green Beans  
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Jericho Senior High School

Dear Mr. Cohen, Dr. Prisinzano, Mr. Cummings, and Dr. Finlay,

Hi! My name is Bhavika Bhasin and I am a sophomore at the high school. For the past 23 days my team and I have been participating in Project Green Challenge, a one month long challenge for high school and college students to raise awareness and learn more about the environment. Over these 23 days, one issue really stood out to my team and I, especially in Jericho: plastic waste.

Although Jericho has made efforts to reduce its plastic waste, the results have proved nonexistent and plastic waste remains a problem in our school and community. A main source of this issue results from single-use plastics such as those found in product wrappers, water bottles, or the wrapping material for some of the lunch materials in our school. According to the Mayor, New York itself uses about 36 million pounds of single-use plastics a year. We can target this issue in our own school in order to contribute to the fight against plastic and climate change in general! Otherwise, if we fail to make a change, approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution will continue find their way into our oceans every day, as they do currently (OSPAR, 2009). There are several small ways that the Jericho School district can target this issue on a local level, make small changes to contribute to a fight to make a big difference.

One of the most obvious is to eliminate or extremely cut-down our use of single use plastics. This can start with the products in vending machines, the utensils in our cafeteria and food wrapping for lunch products. The school and district could remove items that have single-use packaging from their cafeterias, eliminating the source of the problem withing the school. As an alternative to plastic utensils and packaging, the school could utilize paper or biodegradable cutlery. Jericho could also provide more recycling bins throughout the schools, giving students the opportunity to recycle any plastics. In order to better incentivize recycling, we could hold a competition between grades. Each piece of plastic given to a designated teacher would equate to one point. The grade with the most points at the end of a one week period would get one wellness day, dedicated solely to their grade. This would encourage students to be moer concious of and collect recyclable items instead of thoughtlessly throwing them in the garbage.

We understand that this project would most likely need the support of our school board members or superintendent and would be delighted to have a chance to present our ideas to these members of our district in order to encourage a change. By implementing these ideas and cutting down on plastic pollution, Jericho could reduce its environmental footprint and contribute to the fight against climate change as a whole, doing its part as a school district to reduce our community's carbon footprint.

We hope that you will consider our proposal and, perhaps, allow us to implement some of our ideas or reach out to others that may be able to. Let's do our part as a community to target

climate change, whether it be with small changes or big ones. Every change can make a difference, no matter how small!

Thank You!

Warm Regards,  
Bhavika Bhasin, Victoria Silva, Khushi Patel, and Sophia Zhu  
(Team The Green Beans)

to dcohen, jprisinzano, bcummings@jerichoschools.org, mfinlay

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projectgreenchallenge22

projectgreenchallenge22 Today, I wrote a letter to my school's principals and assistant principals to encourage change regarding the issue of plastic pollution in our school. We hope to make a difference in our school by possibly implementing our ideas or presenting them to people who would be able to. @turninggreenorg @davecohenjhs @jdp\_teacher #pgc2022 #plasticpollution

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