

Name: WaterBuffalos

Username: Waterbuffaloes23

School: Poolesville Highschool

- 1. What environmental topics are you most passionate about?**
 - a. I am passionate about reducing our waste, whether it be plastic, food, or clothing. Through a bit of added personal effort, we can conserve resources and minimize the negative impacts of consumption on the planet.
- 2. What are you good at?**
 - a. Presenting/talking to others, creating artistic graphics, and engaging other students
- 3. What do you love doing?**
 - a. Drawing, crafting, being outdoors, and socializing with others

Now, put your answers into the context of *your* campus. How is your school performing environmentally? In what areas does it excel? Where is there room for improvement? Where do your skills, passions, and aspirations intersect to form a course of action to address your school's sustainability.

Poolesville Highschool's Global Ecology Studies Program has led a large variety of efforts to increase the environmental friendliness of our school. Before construction, Global students constructed a wetland out of native plants, capturing run-off from the parking lot and preventing it from entering our waterways. We even planted an arboretum full of flowers and trees for students to spend their time in. However, our waste disposal system at Poolesville is largely ineffective. I can use my skills to get the word out there through creative posters and moving presentations.

Pick one area where your school needs to improve *and* where you are motivated to work for positive environmental outcomes. It's time to plan!

In writing or visuals, answer the following:

- **What is the environmental focus you have selected?**
 - Waste disposal
- **Why does your school need to improve in this area?**
 - There aren't enough trash/recycling cans around the school. Oftentimes students throw trash in recycling bins and paper in trash bins because that is the nearest and most convenient waste disposal bin. Lunch time also generates a lot of food waste and plastic waste in the form of containers and trays.
- **Who would you need to work with or call on to make change?**
 - SGA, administration, global program teachers, principal

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- **What are three or four specific recommendations for how this might improve?**
 - Collaborating with Compostology to divert food waste to compost facilities
 - Purchasing more trash/recycling bins so that proper disposal options for trash/paper/bottles and cans are provided
 - Creating posters to remind students of how to properly dispose of waste
 - Providing students with reusable containers for school lunch to be served in
- **How can you use your skill sets to create this change?**
 - Communicating directly with student body and administration to make change
 - Creating engaging graphics to inform students

Write up a proposal for your school around this issue that states the problem, plan of action, rationale, and solutions. Get the ball rolling by posting your proposal on Instagram! Tag your school (any and all relevant accounts!) and @TurningGreenOrg, as well as #PGC2023.

Proposal

Proposal to Improve Waste Disposal at Poolesville High School

We are writing to address a pressing issue that we have identified within our school community. The problem at hand is the inadequate availability of trash and recycling bins, and excessive waste during lunch hours and school events. This situation not only contributes to a messy environment, but also undermines our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Problem Statement:

1. Inadequate Trash/Recycling Bins: There aren't enough trash and recycling bins placed conveniently around the school premises. This scarcity leads to students often resorting to the nearest available bin for waste disposal, which is often a recycling bin for trash and vice versa.
2. Excessive Waste: The lunch period generates a substantial amount of food waste and plastic waste in the form of containers, trays, and leftovers. A similar situation occurs during school events like Homecoming or football games.

Solutions:

To address these issues, we propose a multi-faceted approach that includes:

1. Collaboration with Compostology: We can begin by informing students about the opportunity to start a compost program with Compostology, a waste student led management nonprofit.

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Through this, we can help to divert food waste generated during lunch hours to composting facilities.

2. Purchase Additional Trash/Recycling Bins: Procure and strategically place more trash and recycling bins across the school premises. This will provide students with easy access to proper disposal options and help eliminate the confusion surrounding waste management.

3. Educational Posters: Create informative and engaging posters to educate students on the correct disposal of waste. These posters will be strategically placed near disposal bins and throughout the school, reminding students of their environmental responsibility.

4. Reusable Containers: Encourage students to purchase reusable containers by putting them on our back to school shopping list. Discounts can also be given to students who bring their own containers for athletic event concessions. This step will reduce the generation of plastic waste in the form of disposable containers and trays and promote the use of eco-friendly alternatives.

The implementation of these solutions will bring about several significant benefits:

1. Environmental Responsibility: By increasing the availability of recycling bins and reducing waste through composting, our school will continue to set an example in promoting environmental consciousness and sustainability.

2. Clean and Aesthetic Campus: More bins and informative posters will create a cleaner and more organized school environment.

3. Education and Awareness: The inclusion of educational posters and initiatives to promote responsible waste management will empower our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible citizens and stewards of our environment.

We request your support and collaboration in implementing these measures, which we believe will lead to a cleaner and more environmentally responsible school community.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophia Deng & Brianna Akumoah-Boateng

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Link:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CypVa-jOasv/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBINWFIZA

Day 20 Greenest:

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